



discoveries.



NAVAL DOCUMENTS
OF
The American Revolution



Colonel George Washington (of the Virginia Militia). By Charles Willson Peale, 1772.

NAVAL DOCUMENTS OF The American Revolution

VOLUME I

AMERICAN THEATRE: Dec. 1, 1774–Sept. 2, 1775

EUROPEAN THEATRE: Dec. 6, 1774–Aug. 9, 1775

WILLIAM BELL CLARK, Editor

*For and in Collaboration with
The U.S. Navy Department*

With a Foreword by

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

And an Introduction by

REAR ADMIRAL ERNEST McNEILL ELLER, U.S.N. (Ret.)

Director of Naval History

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Vol. 1

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In this character of the Americans, a love of freedom is the predominating feature which marks and distinguishes the whole; and as an ardent is always a jealous affection, your colonies become suspicious, restive, and untractable whenever they see the least attempt to wrest from them by force, or shuffle from them by chicane, what they think the only advantage worth living for.

EDMUND BURKE,
1775

If the American Revolution was the spearhead of a new political and economic order, the shaft of that spear was powered by hands that ennobled all human history.

ADMIRAL ARLEIGH BURKE, USN (Ret.),
1962

In Memoriam

Having reviewed galley proofs, President Kennedy sent us this powerful Foreword in anticipation of publication in 1964. Appropriately he signed it on the 4th of July, a day that to all men stands for freedom, a day that could have had no meaning in 1776, or since, without the strength of the unchained sea. Mourned by the world, he left this life on 22 November 1963 for the vast seas of infinity, but his words still resound across the great waters that join and are the hope of free men as long as the United States stays strong on them:

“The same revolutionary beliefs for which our forebears fought are still at issue around the globe—the belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God.

“We dare not forget today that we are the heirs of that first revolution . . .

“Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

“This much we pledge—and more . . .

“In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility—I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it—and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.”

THE WHITE HOUSE

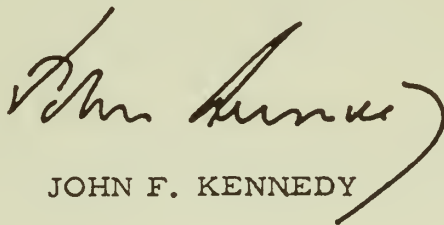
WASHINGTON

FOREWORD

Primary sources constitute the backbone of written history; and history is the means by which a nation repossesses its past. As the bicentennial of our own Declaration of Independence draws near, it is all the more important to publish as completely as possible the original papers essential to a full understanding of our nation's birth. Students of the American past will therefore welcome this series of volumes designed to illustrate through contemporary documents the role of the sea in the American Revolution.

These volumes make amply clear the critical role played by sea power in the achievement of American independence. Although the documents emphasize naval and combined operations, American, allied and British, they properly include a selection of items showing the activities of privateers and of the merchant marine. It is evident that the thirteen colonies would have been hard put to win independence without this trident of maritime support -- the small but spirited American Navy, epitomized in the audacity of John Paul Jones; the powerful fleets of our allies, French, Spanish and Dutch, converting a local revolt into a two-continent war; and the ceaseless flow of supplies to the rebels made possible by Yankee ingenuity and daring in merchant ship and privateer.

These documents characteristically speak in the casual and laconic tones of the sailor who regards the hazards of storms, shoals and enemy fire as the expected impediments of life. Between the lines, they tell the story of courage and valor which established the high traditions of the American Navy -- and which, ever since, has inspired and fortified the American people in times of crisis.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "John F. Kennedy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end that extends downwards and to the right.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

July 4, 1963



INTRODUCTION

America rose dramatically from the sea and from it has increasingly drawn strength in the incredible events since Columbus' first thrilling landfall. The New World was discovered on the eve of and accelerated, if it did not in part cause, the series of revolutions that have swept through the past centuries like a typhoon. These revolutions have accompanied a rising gale of freedom—from antiquity the sea and nations wielding its trident have promoted democracy and liberated man from chains of every sort. In the American Revolution, which our documentary publication encompasses, the "cause of freedom" itself depended upon the sea. Independence could not have been won without wise exercise of force upon it. As Washington wrote in 1781, and none could know better:

" . . . Your Excellency [Admiral Comte de Grasse] will have observed that whatever efforts are made by the Land Armies, the Navy must have the casting vote in the present contest. . . . the triumphant manner in which Your Excellency has maintained the mastery of the American Seas, and the glory of the french Flag—leads both nations to look to you as the Arbiter of the War."

The meaning of the sea to the United States in the War for Independence has been comprehended by few Americans—had it been, each generation would have more wisely employed its growing influence upon our destiny and therefore upon that of liberty itself.

One reason the sea's early importance has not been understood may be the restricted availability of naval source material of the American Revolution. More than for any other key period of United States history the "seagoing" documents of this period have been widely scattered. Many have been lost. Many that remained were relatively inaccessible in private collections as well as public ones spread throughout much of Europe as well as the United States. Some valuable publication of documents has occurred, as by the old Naval History Society, but the vast body of this source material has lain little touched and little known for nearly two centuries.

It has long been apparent that the Naval History Division should seek to correct this deficiency. One of the primary responsibilities of it and predecessor offices has been collecting, editing and publishing records and documents of naval operations in wars of the United States.

This enduring mission got underway with the publication of the *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion*, 31 volumes (1894–1927). Then followed *Naval Documents Related to the Quasi-*

War Between the United States and France: Naval Operations from February 1797 to December 1801, 7 volumes (1935–1938), and *Naval Documents Related to the United States Wars With the Barbary Powers: Naval Operations Including Diplomatic Background from 1785 Through 1807*, 7 volumes (1939–1944).

Periodically over the years publication of the naval records of the Revolution was considered. For various reasons these hopes did not reach fruition. The Directors of Naval History, however, did steadily collect records. The core of these, known as Record Group 45 (to which William Bell Clark made large contributions), now rests in the Naval Section of the National Archives where it was sent by that able historian and thinker, Commodore Dudley W. Knox.

My competent predecessor, Rear Admiral John B. Heffernan, passed on to me the publication of the naval documents of the American Revolution, as a project highly recommended by the Secretary of the Navy's distinguished Advisory Committee on Naval History. A fortunate conjunction of wisdom, men and money soon made it possible to start the vast undertaking.

Few citizens have as clear realization of the importance of the past in shaping the future as have Thomas S. Gates, in 1957 Secretary of the Navy, and Admiral Arleigh Burke, then Chief of Naval Operations. Both understand that true progress (and not just "rat race" change) in material things, including even the most advanced ones reaching into space, depends upon the building of a sound foundation—the new is but the breaking crest of a tidal wave of advancing knowledge. Both also profoundly understand an equal if not greater value: *From the past comes inspiration*. It stirs us and those after us to emulate the courage, the selfless service, the patriotic sacrifice of our ancestors. Without these qualities America could not have been born free, could not have grown to greatness, and cannot endure great.

With their support, albeit not without frequent knocking on the door in competition with mighty projects like Polaris and space activities, initial funds became available.

At the same time the specially qualified individual to edit this massive undertaking had retired from business to North Carolina. William Bell Clark wrought a successful career in business, becoming Vice President of N. W. Ayer & Son, Inc. His heart, however, went to sea. Soon after World War I he first wrote about naval matters. Not long thereafter he began to concentrate on the American Revolution. Today he is the leading authority on the naval aspects of that world changing struggle.

As the project took shape in this office (and before agreement to allocate funds for it), we discussed the choice of editor with the Secretary of the Navy's Advisory Committee on Naval History. Some members were especially versed in the American Revolution. These included Samuel Flagg Bemis, Julian P. Boyd, Waldo Leland, Chairman, the late William E. Lingelbach, Allan Nevins and Walter Muir Whitehill. To a man they recommended Mr. Clark.

When I visited him, in his library I found other reasons than most of us realized why he was *the* man for the job. All knew him to be a tireless researcher, competent writer, and walking encyclopedia of the American Revolution. Few,

if any, realized, certainly I didn't, that in his library reposed transcripts of much of the material we would publish. Around the bulkheads, from deck to overhead, stood neatly tabbed portfolios with thousands of transcripts from repositories in Europe and the United States. Here was the distilled essence of a lifetime avocation—now to become a new and inspiring vocation.

This collection, added to Record Group 45, then appeared to be most of what we needed except for records overseas. Yet in the seven years we have worked on this project we have added much. Mr. Clark himself has since found large bodies of new manuscripts in Canada and in the United States from Massachusetts to California. In my own duties, which call for considerable travel in connection with other activities of the office, and those of others of my staff, research has been fruitful in scores of repositories. We have been helped by many scholars in this country and overseas.

My personal research concentrated in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Florida, several repositories in New York and New England, and a few elsewhere. State archives and those of historical societies yielded large cargoes; and it has been like finding "seas yet untried" to come upon private collections with extensive naval documents. Notable among the latter have been the Smith Collection, now in the National Park Service, Morristown, N.J., the Hayes Collection still in the original plantation house near Edenton, N.C. (microfilm in the University of North Carolina) and Captain John G. M. Stone's priceless Langdon Papers—a particular jewel transplanted out of New England into my home port of Annapolis.

A key man in the project has been Dr. William J. Morgan, author, student of the American Revolution, and head of the Historical Research Section of this office. He has researched for materials, developed leads to new sources of documents and has worked closely with Mr. Clark, Admiral Loomis and myself on formulating and implementing our editorial policy.

Dr. Morgan's Section, amidst a heavy workload of other assignments, has handled the cataloguing and processing of new materials. His group has done the comparison reading and re-reading of documents, essential in this vast compilation, and the many editorial details to transfer the manuscript, as delivered by Mr. Clark, into this book. The following have served with him as naval duty rotated them in and out of the Section of usually seven people who worked on the American Revolution as other duties permitted: Lieutenant John R. Ganey; Lieutenants (junior grade) Paul Withington, Christopher Smith, Llewellyn Heigham, John Sturgeon, Rex Vail, Stephen Schuker, Margaret Helfrich, Richard Basoco, and David Patterson; Chief Yeomen Harold Eagan, Bartley Sisson, and Frederick S. Coward; Yeoman First Class Samuel Lopiccolo; Yeomen Third Class Pauline Shipker and Marion Shafer. The duties of Robert I. Campbell, civilian assistant in the Section, have included microfilming thousands of documents at the Library of Congress and elsewhere. The excellent work of Lieutenant Patterson in many areas as this volume was readied for the press is worthy of particular notice. During the final stages of preparation of Volume I, we were also most fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Scheffenacker whose devoted interest and competence have been a real boon.

Several from other sections of the Naval History Division have contributed markedly to this volume. These include: W. Bart Greenwood, Librarian and Coordinator of Naval Libraries, with F. S. Meigs, Miss Barbara Lynch and Miss Mary Pickens of his staff; Commander D. V. Hickey, Head of the Curator Branch, Lieutenant Commander Mary Linderman, Lieutenant (junior grade) Richard Webber and Charles Weaver; H. A. Vadnais, Jr., Assistant (civilian) Curator; Jesse Thomas, Donald Martin and Miss Florence Sharswood.

Commander Hickey and Mr. Greenwood have pulled strong oars in a major area of the project—the collection of illustrative material. Initially searching our own library for leads, we have enlarged our search, as for manuscripts, to include many ports. Catholic in exploration, we have sought photographs of contemporary and near contemporary paintings, engravings, charts, cartoons, broadsides, relics, and other iconographic material. These have been added as a special collection in our comprehensive historic photographic file in Commander Hickey's section. This collection on the American Revolution approaches 5,000 items. It is noteworthy that in all our searching we have found no picture of Vice Admiral Samuel Graves, early Commander of British Naval Forces in America.

In addition, Mr. Greenwood obtained rich treasures from many repositories (principally the Map Division of the Library of Congress) in charts, maps and engravings of port scenes. Under the leadership of such men as Dr. Arch C. Gerlach and Dr. Walter Ristow, the Map Division has become a world leader with its superb collection. The knowledge and cooperation of Richard W. Stephenson, research librarian, has been most valuable.

Naval Reservists, teachers by profession, on periods of summer active duty have measurably contributed: Commander John Tierney, Lieutenant Commander W. L. Hemeyer, Chief Builder Robert Payden. We have likewise profited by having experienced historians perform brief Naval Reserve duty with us: Captain Neville Kirk of the Naval Academy and Commander William Franklin, State Department.

We have obtained most new manuscript material on microfilm, have had it processed into paper copies and have catalogued them employing a multiple card system similar to that used in the notable Jefferson, Franklin and Adams publications by Julian P. Boyd, Leonard W. Labaree and Lyman Butterfield. Since we got underway these able editors have been among our valued advisors and have given many sound sailing directions.

Our large microfilm library, added to Mr. Clark's extensive lifetime collection, runs to over half a million pages and still grows. All material cannot appear in the published volumes, but the combined group will have unique research value, including as it does gleanings from a fleet of collections in America and from overseas.

A repository that seems never to exhaust itself is the Library of Congress. In its superb Manuscript Division under Dr. David C. Mearns, we have microfilmed documents with our portable equipment, whenever opportunity allowed, for some four years and still have not reached home port.

This project has benefited by the wise advice and assistance of Rear Admiral F. Kent Loomis, USN (Ret.), Assistant Director of Naval History, who has furthered the accomplishments of this office in numerous ways. It also could not have gone forward without the ever resourceful assistance of several of my immediate office associates: Miss T. I. Mertz, Mrs. Gertrude M. Johnson, Yeoman First Class John Murphy and his successors over the years, Chief Yeomen D. W. Tamblyn and R. C. Rhoades. Mrs. Johnson has made the project incomparably easier in her skilled handling of the complex ordering and financial arrangements and the numerous archival correspondence files.

In the Chief of Naval Operations' administrative section, Mr. J. B. James' flexibility and cheerful willingness in funding hundreds of orders for microfilm and other reproduction, and Mr. John B. Gallagher's broad knowledge of printing procedures, have been indispensable to the success of our operation. The same must indeed be said of the excellent service we have received from Mr. Kenneth A. Hancock and Mr. Charles H. James, Defense Department Printing Service.

Elsewhere we list the principal repositories in which we have found materials for this volume. All of us on the staff extend appreciation to the many helpful souls who have eased our work in them. I would like to note with my personal gratitude the names of the following who have been particularly kind and accommodating to me in correspondence and in my research visits to some three score repositories, public and private, large and small:

The Duke of Argyll, John D. Bakeless; Marquis de Bausset, Samuel Bemiss; Francis Berkeley, Julian P. Boyd, Marion Brewington, Mrs. John Nicholas Brown; Lyman Butterfield; Herbert Cahoon; Arthur B. Carlson; Frank Carr; Miss Margaret Chapman; Clarkson Collins, III; Medecin en Chef Herve Cras, FN; Christopher Crittenden; Captain V. A. Dahlstrom; Charles W. David; Leon de Valinger; Captain J. C. De'Engelbronner, RNN; Captain Wade de Weese; Rear Admiral Oscar Dodson; Rear Admiral George Dufek; J. H. Easterby; Chief Yeoman Clifford Foley; the Earl of Gainsborough; Howard B. Gotlieb, Capitaine de Vaisseau Grincourt, FN; J. Welles Henderson; Right Reverend K. G. Hamilton; H. Hardenberg; James Heslin; Norman Higson; Robert W. Hill; Richard Hough; John Melville Jennings; Herman Kahn; Commander Peter Kemp, RN; John D. Kilbourne; Leonard W. Labaree; the late beloved William E. Lingelbach; Miss Frances Lordwood; Dwight C. Lyman; Commander W. E. May, RN; David Mearns; Commander E. G. Middleton, RN; Rear Admiral S. E. Morison; Rear Admiral A. M. Patterson; James W. Patton; Howard Peckham; Rear Admiral Hugh Pullen, RCN; Mrs. Granville T. Prior; Morris L. Radoff; Mrs. Marion B. Reed; John B. Riggs; Stephen T. Riley; F. S. Ronalds; Paul R. Rugen; Miss Mattie Russell; Miss Frances Settee; Miss Grace Siewers; Gust Skordas; Edouard Stackpole; Captain John Gilbert M. Stone; Rear Admiral Wallace Sylvester (deceased); Miss Muriel Taylor; William J. Van Schreeven; Guy Weatherly; Walter Muir Whitehill; Mrs. John Wood.

Mr. F. C. Drake conducted research for illustrative material in many English repositories, effectively furthering this area of our work. Through the in-

terest and support of Dr. Daniel J. Reed, Library of Congress, Madame Paul Henri Bonnel in 1963 began similar work for us searching for manuscripts and illustrations in French archives with outstanding results. Most of the French translations are the skillful rendering of Professor Bernard P. LeBeau, U.S. Naval Academy.

Frederick S. Hicks; Irving Halpern; Milton Kaplan; R. F. Metzdorf; Harry Shaw Newman; the late Irving S. Olds; Commander Mendel Peterson, USNR, a number of those in the foregoing paragraphs, and many others have been especially helpful in our illustrations search. Mr. Hicks, noted in his own right as collector and authority, has generously worked long hours on the illustrations and captions for this volume, and in many other ways.

I would like in this section to express the gratitude of all of us for the unfailing wise counsel and support of the able members of the Advisory Committee and the Special Consultants. Their names appear ahead of the Foreword.

Many others merit our appreciation. All these, though unnamed, we thank. I must mention, however, among those in the Navy Department who smoothed our course, the following in particular (positions are at the time): The Honorable Fred A. Bantz, Under Secretary of the Navy; The Honorable Cecil P. Milne, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Material); and Rear Admiral G. R. Donaho, USN, Assistant Vice Chief of Naval Operations (Administration) and his successor, Rear Admiral Roy C. Benson, USN. Without their signatures there would have been no money, no contract—and no publication.

We must also thank the present incumbents of the top offices in the Navy Department: Secretary of the Navy Paul H. Nitze; and Chief of Naval Operations Admiral David L. McDonald, USN. Their perception of the importance of sound understanding of the past in all of the Navy's activities has facilitated the launching of this volume.

John Paul Jones, the indomitable, truly wrote early in the American Revolution, "Without a respectable Navy—alas America!" A Navy comprises more than warships, though around them all else pivots. Thus, as readers of this first volume will note, the term "Naval" in our title bears a broad definition. The sea's influence in U.S. history has been as far reaching as the winds that sweep its horizons; and every aspect has affected naval power and its exercise.

The sea's influence is no less now than in the brave years of the American Revolution but its meaning was clearer then. This is so because few Americans in 1775 lived beyond the reach of the sea. They felt its need constantly for travel, for transport, for imports that ruled their daily lives such as clothing, tools, arms including powder, staples like tea and salt. The sea winds they could feel and smell also brought home the need of ships for export and for protection from foreign attack. Hence it seemed desirable to introduce in this work *selected* maritime material dealing with trade and other matters that have indirect as well as direct naval association. As Mahan said, "a nation's sea-borne trade is the life blood of its power, the assurer of its greatness, the preserver of its comfort."

For economy we have been forced to stow a large cargo between these covers. We have endeavored, however, from the splendid manuscript produced by William Bell Clark, to launch a volume worthy of its contents.

Our editorial policy reveals itself in the text, although a few points might be noted. Because every effort is made to retain the spelling, punctuation, and abbreviations of the original writer, the editorial apparatus is in the main uncomplicated. The standard ([]) indicates editorial insertions. On occasion (ordinarily in long entries), for clarity a paragraph break has been added where none existed in the manuscript.

Superior letters, a favorite eighteenth century device, have been eliminated except in signatures; likewise "ye" (except in some quoted headings) has become "the" and "yt" has become "that".

Document headings are our insertions unless quotation marks set off the heading indicating that it has been taken "as is" from the original manuscript.

To save space, superscriptions which repeat information in the heading are omitted or shortened, except in rare instances when the full one adds color or essential data to the document.

Where only part of a letter has been selected for inclusion in this volume, "[Extract]" appears at the top left of the entry. For continuing items such as legislative journals, ship logs, newspapers, or personal diaries which yield a number of individual items, it is clear that an entry on any given date is an extract from the source, and it has not been deemed necessary to note it. Unpublished Crown copyright material in The Public Record Office, London, is reproduced by permission of the Controller of H. M. Stationery Office.

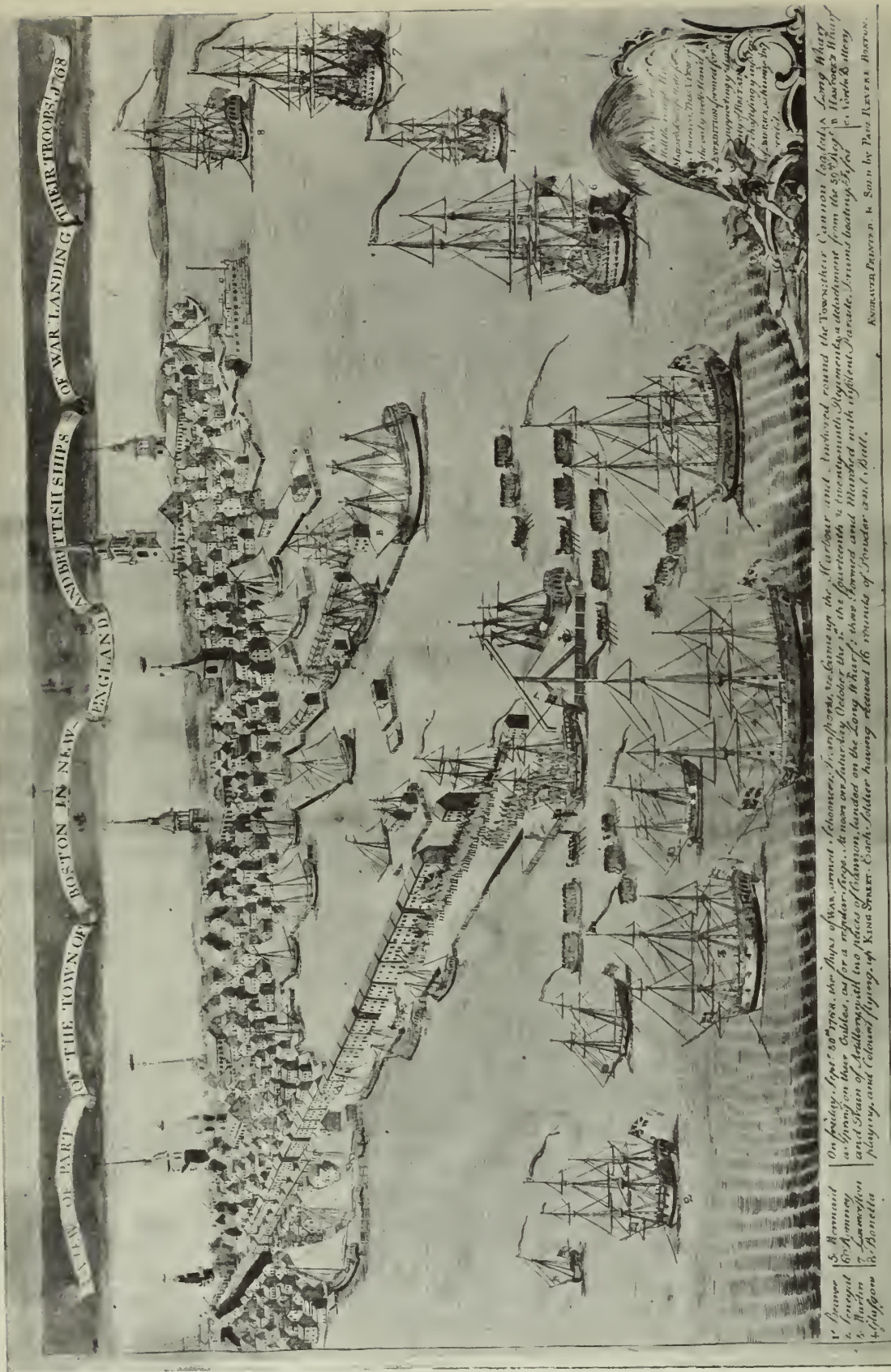
As an aid to the user, the date appears in bold face above and to the left of the initial entry on that date, and to keep a good holystoning day in mind, Sundays are indicated.

We anticipate at least fifteen volumes in the series. Volume II steams in close formation behind this one. Mr. Clark has manuscripts for Volumes III through VI well in hand.

We hope this volume and each of its successors will be of enduring value not only to scholars, who delve into the detailed rigging of history, but also to all Americans who would understand the powerful forces that made and keep us a free nation. Among these forces few have been as potent as the sea.

As Volume I shows, General Washington frequently referred to the importance of strength at sea. Subsequent volumes will carry many others of his letters, among them one to Lafayette late in 1781. It was written after the surrender at Yorktown that inevitably followed the French fleet's victory over the British off the Chesapeake Capes which denied Cornwallis the life-giving sea and sealed his fate. In this letter from our far off beginnings appear words that could have been written of World War II, of Korea, of Lebanon, of Cuba—words that are particularly appropriate to the global Confederation of the Sea by which we who love freedom oppose communist chains:

"It follows then as certain as that Night succeeds the day, that without a decisive Naval force we can do nothing definitive—and with it everything honourable and glorious."



1. *Princess* 2. *Amiral* 3. *Amiral* 4. *Amiral* 5. *Amiral* 6. *Amiral* 7. *Amiral* 8. *Amiral* 9. *Amiral* 10. *Amiral* 11. *Amiral* 12. *Amiral* 13. *Amiral* 14. *Amiral* 15. *Amiral* 16. *Amiral* 17. *Amiral* 18. *Amiral* 19. *Amiral* 20. *Amiral* 21. *Amiral* 22. *Amiral* 23. *Amiral* 24. *Amiral* 25. *Amiral* 26. *Amiral* 27. *Amiral* 28. *Amiral* 29. *Amiral* 30. *Amiral* 31. *Amiral* 32. *Amiral* 33. *Amiral* 34. *Amiral* 35. *Amiral* 36. *Amiral* 37. *Amiral* 38. *Amiral* 39. *Amiral* 40. *Amiral* 41. *Amiral* 42. *Amiral* 43. *Amiral* 44. *Amiral* 45. *Amiral* 46. *Amiral* 47. *Amiral* 48. *Amiral* 49. *Amiral* 50. *Amiral* 51. *Amiral* 52. *Amiral* 53. *Amiral* 54. *Amiral* 55. *Amiral* 56. *Amiral* 57. *Amiral* 58. *Amiral* 59. *Amiral* 60. *Amiral* 61. *Amiral* 62. *Amiral* 63. *Amiral* 64. *Amiral* 65. *Amiral* 66. *Amiral* 67. *Amiral* 68. *Amiral* 69. *Amiral* 70. *Amiral* 71. *Amiral* 72. *Amiral* 73. *Amiral* 74. *Amiral* 75. *Amiral* 76. *Amiral* 77. *Amiral* 78. *Amiral* 79. *Amiral* 80. *Amiral* 81. *Amiral* 82. *Amiral* 83. *Amiral* 84. *Amiral* 85. *Amiral* 86. *Amiral* 87. *Amiral* 88. *Amiral* 89. *Amiral* 90. *Amiral* 91. *Amiral* 92. *Amiral* 93. *Amiral* 94. *Amiral* 95. *Amiral* 96. *Amiral* 97. *Amiral* 98. *Amiral* 99. *Amiral* 100. *Amiral*

Landing of British troops at Boston, 1768.

EDITOR'S PREFACE

Original letters and documents relating to the naval and maritime history of the American Revolution are scattered across the continent from coast to coast and overseas among the nations of Europe. Some may be found in the fireproof vaults of state, university and college libraries and historical societies; some in possession of autograph collectors; others held by families descendent from early seafaring men. By far the largest number that have survived repose in the public archives of this country and in Europe. Many priceless records have been irretrievably lost in the course of well nigh two centuries, succumbing to decomposition, flames, flood and bonfires of spring housecleaning.

As described in Rear Admiral Eller's Introduction, an exhaustive search has been made of archives and collections (public and private) in this country and abroad to supplement and augment my own half century of seeking out and securing accurate transcripts, photostats or microfilm of surviving letters or documents pertinent to the war at sea between 1775 and 1785.

As the project took shape, it became evident that the scope of the conflict transcended any previous concept of its extent. It encompassed not just the Continental Navy, but the fleets of George Washington in New England waters and off New York, those on Lake Champlain, and on the lower Mississippi, navies in eight of the revolting colonies, letters of marque and reprisal, the British Navy, the French Navy, ejection of a half-dozen Royal Governors, the problems and plight of naval prisoners, and weaving throughout, the constant and perilous efforts to secure munitions of war from the foreign West Indies and abroad.

It was the genesis of American seapower of today: A beginning with nothing; neither ships, nor cannon, nor gunpowder, nor trained naval officers, nor any tradition. It arose out of desperation under the coercive acts of a British King and subservient Ministry and Parliament, enforced by His Majesty's ships on the American station; an harassment experienced long before "the shot heard round the world" on April 19, 1775, heralded the beginning of our military history of the war.

This war at sea developed through dire necessity in each rebellious province and colony; to defend the seacoast towns and protect their ocean-borne trade, to seek among neutral nations the arms and ammunition without which there could be no resistance made on land or sea, and, finally, to retaliate with such meager means as were at hand. The spark which ignited these maritime activities was not the gunfire at Lexington, but the order in George III's Privy Council six months earlier prohibiting the exportation of gunpowder or other warlike stores to the American colonies. That order reached Boston in the beginning of December, 1774.

This volume begins at that point, or rather, three days earlier, on December 1, 1774, when the first step in the Continental Association (the non-acceptance of British imports) became effective. It presents chronologically the occurrences through September 2, 1775, at home, and through August 9, 1775, abroad. Because of slow and uncertain means of communication—a vessel's passage being subject to the whims of the wind—there was always an exasperating lapse of time between any event in America and knowledge of it in Europe, and vice versa. News from west to east generally took four or five weeks in transit; from east to west, against prevailing winds, five to six weeks or even longer. The chronology, therefore, has been divided into the American Theatre and the European Theatre, allowing for the time lapse, and thus placing the sequences in proper perspective.

The rebels in Massachusetts, for example, chased the Redcoats back into Boston on April 19, 1775, and one day later three British major generals—Howe, Clinton and Burgoyne—sailed for America from Portsmouth, England. To place that date in the chronology one day after the Battles of Lexington and Concord might lead a reader—thinking in terms of present day communication—to a hasty conclusion that the event of the 19th of April influenced the dispatch of these warriors on the 20th, whereas the news of Lexington did not reach London until May 29.

Thus, the chronological arrangement for the volume is:

American Theatre: December 1, 1774–May 20, 1775

European Theatre: December 6, 1774–June 26, 1775

American Theatre: May 21, 1775–September 2, 1775

European Theatre: June 29, 1775–August 9, 1775

For the American Theatre, the sequence is daily, from north to south: Canada, Nova Scotia, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, etc. After East and West Florida and Louisiana, come Bermuda and the West Indies. For the European Theatre, the sequence is, for example, Ireland, Scotland, England, Scandinavia, United Provinces (Holland), France, Spain, Portugal, and Italy.

Letters and documents appear in full when the subject matter relates entirely to maritime affairs. Extracts are used when a letter deals with other topics which are not pertinent. For example, a letter from George Washington to the Continental Congress may discuss recruiting, insubordination, commissary problems, and devote a single paragraph to naval activities. That paragraph alone has been selected.

Contemporary and letterbook copies have been used and so indicated. No attempt has been made to establish whether a letter was in the handwriting of the author, or dictated and signed by him. This procedure, essential to a collection of writings of an individual (*i.e.*, Washington, Jefferson, Franklin and Adams), could be of no practical value in this project; nor could it have been accomplished, as many letters of the period have no other source than printed versions, such as the journals and letters of the New York Provincial Congress,

almost all of which were lost when the capitol building at Albany was destroyed by fire.

Because of the magnitude of the project it was considered the better part of wisdom to accept a number of previously printed letters or documents, provided they were in a volume edited by a qualified and conscientious scholar, or that the originals could not be located.

The first major documentary series of a predecessor office of the Naval History Division was *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion*. The next two series—*Quasi-War with France* and *Barbary Wars*—contain only American correspondence and documents, those of the respective enemies being unavailable or non-existent. For this present series, fortunately, there is extant “the other side of the story.” The voluminous records of both the British Admiralty and Colonial Office are preserved in the Public Record Office in London. Liberal use has been made of admirals’ dispatches, captains’ letters and journals of ships on the American station, as well as letters from such Royal governors as maintained, for a time, a semblance of authority under the guns of His Majesty’s men of war. Where ships’ logs or journals are used, the text has been arranged by standard, rather than nautical time, a necessary step if letters and logs are to be in agreement as to dates.

English accounts placed in juxtaposition with American provide contrasting viewpoints and conclusions upon many maritime events, both major and minor. Likewise there is disclosed not only British aims and strategy, but incidents upon which American writers were vague, or uninformed; accounts of prize-taking existing nowhere else, and a vivid impression of the alarms, mostly false, with which the enemy viewed the infantile naval efforts of the rebellious colonies.

The British and Colonial newspapers, with a style of journalism peculiar to the period, proved another profitable source. Frequently they printed incidents and events not recorded in letters of the times, and, contrary to a common impression, were generally accurate, if inadequate. Editorializing in their news columns frequently provides amusing reading.

In some instances there is repetition in accounts given by contemporary American writers of the same event. Each one, however, has incorporated some fact or fancy lacking in the others. Therefore, it seemed advisable to accept iteration where necessary so that future historians, biographers, novelists or students would not be deprived of the complete documentary story.

Where military and maritime history overlap, the problem of selection becomes difficult. Even Lexington and Concord, fought ten or twelve miles from navigable waters, had naval connotations. When it came to the campaigns on Lake Champlain and the Richelieu, Sorel and St. Lawrence rivers, the operations were largely amphibious. Hence some military documentation was called for. The taking of Ticonderoga is a case in point. It was the prelude to the disastrous attempt to conquer Canada. Without the account of its capture, as gathered from the various versions of participants, the subsequent events would lack background. Even the storming of that fortress was in itself an amphibious operation—a boat crossing from the New Hampshire Grants to the Province of

New York. And it led, shortly thereafter, to the acquisition of the first two armed vessels publicly owned—the schooner *Liberty* and sloop *Enterprise*.

To summarize: This volume, as previously stated, begins in December, 1774. The arrival at Boston on December 3, of His Majesty's Ship *Scarborough* with the Order in Privy Council prohibiting exportation of gunpowder to the American colonies, and an accompanying circular letter from the British Secretary of State to the Royal Governors, calling for their assistance in its enforcement, precipitated the first shots of the American Revolution—and not at Lexington. The letter for Rhode Island's Governor fell into the hands of that colony's General Assembly. Within twenty-four hours, by Assembly order, armed men removed inland forty-four cannon and most of the powder from Fort George in Newport harbor. Order and letter, again by Assembly direction, were printed in the *Providence Gazette* on December 10. A copy of the *Gazette* reached Boston and two days later Paul Revere, with newspaper and dispatches in his saddle bag, rode into Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Four hundred men set off, by boat, barge and scow, down the Piscataqua River for Fort William and Mary at its mouth. The fort commander, beset on all sides, warned them not to enter, but his warning was disregarded.

"I immediately ordered three four pounders to be fired at them, and then the small arms," he reported, "and before we could be ready to fire again, we were stormed on all quarters."

That was December 14, 1774. One hundred barrels of gunpowder were carried off, and Governor John Wentworth, crying for naval support, blamed the mischief on publication of the Privy Council order in the Rhode Island newspaper.

Between this date and the day of Lexington, British naval efforts to intercept gunpowder and arms shipments, to protect two Tory settlements in Massachusetts, to support the waning authority of Governor Wentworth in New Hampshire, to fill undermanned ships by impressments from vessels stopped and searched, and to continue enforcement of the oppressive acts of trade and navigation, provoked recrimination, bitterness and some violence. Efforts to evade the Continental Association by certain merchants produced more unpleasantness and drastic action by provincial committees in New York, New Jersey and Maryland. Further south, on April 20—a day after Lexington but nine days before Virginia knew of it—Lord Dunmore seized the powder in the Williamsburg magazine; a preface to his ultimate downfall.

While Lexington and Bunker Hill were primarily matters for the military, each had its naval prelude and aftermath. In between were fought two naval engagements—off Machias and in Narragansett Bay—and both were American victories. They marked the initial efforts at sea; in Massachusetts without Provincial authority; in Rhode Island with the sanction of Assembly. In May also, provincials destroyed a British armed schooner in Boston harbor and in full view of His Majesty's ships riding at anchor. The Continental Congress resolution urging the provinces and colonies to arm ships to defend themselves had thus been anticipated throughout much of New England.

As rebellion spread, the Carolinas sent their Royal Governors fleeing for refuge to British naval vessels, and Georgia preempted the powder which came by merchant ship to the port of Savannah. South Carolina's earliest feat was to send a tiny sloop to St. Augustine and take more than one hundred barrels of gunpowder from a vessel at anchor outside the bar.

In Boston, as the grip of the Continental Army tightened, the pangs of hunger and the fear of a frigid winter sent the British Navy cattle and sheep stealing from the islands and shores of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, and lumber buying or confiscating along the sparsely settled coast of Maine. Enemy cannon bombarded New York, because the rebels were removing the guns from the Battery, and Stonington, in Connecticut, because other rebels fought back when their vessels were seized.

The British so-called Restrictive Acts, arriving along with the three major generals, intensified enemy operations at sea, and expedited development of naval forces by the revolutionary bodies of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and South Carolina. George Washington launched his own little fleet to intercept supply ships entering Boston harbor, and the Colony of Rhode Island pledged its delegates to propose an American fleet to the Continental Congress.

Without the wholehearted assistance of a great many devoted men and women in public and private libraries and historical societies, this project never could have been accomplished. Listing them in alphabetical order by repository, so that all who personally helped me may share equally in the appreciation due:

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DEPOSITORY LOCATION ABBREVIATIONS¹

AAS	American Antiquarian Society, Worcester
AMAE	Archives Du Ministère Des Affaires Étrangères, Paris
APS	American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia
BM	British Museum, London
CL	William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
ConnHS	Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford
ConnSL	Connecticut State Library, Hartford
CUL	Columbia University Library, New York
CW	Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg
DAC	Dominion (Public) Archives of Canada, Ottawa
DLAR	David Library of the American Revolution, Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania
FDRL	Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, New York
HL	Hayes Library, Edenton, North Carolina
HSD	Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington
HSP	Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
HU	Harvard University Library, Cambridge
HUL	Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, California
JCBL	John Carter Brown Library, Providence
LC	Library of Congress, Washington
Mass. Arch.	Massachusetts Archives, Boston
MassHS	Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston
Md. Arch.	Maryland Archives (Hall of Records), Annapolis
MdHS	Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore
MeHS	Maine Historical Society, Portland
MHA	Marine Historical Association, Mystic, Connecticut
MNHP	Morristown National Historical Park, Morristown, New Jersey
NA	National Archives, Washington
NCDAH	North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh
NHA	Nantucket Historical Association, Nantucket, Massachusetts
NHCHS	New Haven Colony Historical Society, New Haven
NHS	Newport Historical Society, Newport
NLCHS	New London County Historical Society, New London
N.S. Arch.	Nova Scotia Archives, Halifax
NYHS	New-York Historical Society, New York
NYPL	New York Public Library, New York
NYSL	New York State Library, Albany
Pa. Arch.	Pennsylvania Archives, Harrisburg
PML	Pierpont Morgan Library, New York
PRO	Public Record Office, London
R.I. Arch.	Rhode Island Archives, Providence
RIHS	Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence
SCHS	South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston
UVL	University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville
VHS	Virginia Historical Society, Richmond
VSL	Virginia State Library, Richmond
WPL	Public Library, Whitehaven, England
WSL	William Salt Library, Stafford, England
YUL	Yale University Library, New Haven

1. The Descriptive List of Illustrations includes additional sources from which only graphic material has been used in this volume.



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Line engraving, probably published in London, April 1, 1775. The view is symbolic of the contrast in the Parliamentary attitude toward the English colonists of North America (against whom repressive measures were leveled in Massachusetts in consequence of the Boston Tea	

Party), as opposed to that shown to the French-speaking settlers of Canada (whose Roman Catholicism had been tolerated by the Quebec Act), the publisher's sympathies obviously being with the former. It is interesting to note the date of publication, almost three weeks before the outbreak of open hostilities at Lexington on April 19, 1775. (Collections of The Library of Congress, Washington.)

- French Intelligence concerning the disposition of ships of the British fleet,
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 (From the Archives du Ministère des Affaires Étrangères; copy in The
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- A View of Falmouth, England 1336
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Map of the British Empire in North America, 1774.

AMERICAN THEATRE

From December 1, 1774, to May 20, 1775



1 Dec. 1774

"A LIST OF ALL SHIPS AND VESSELS WHICH HAVE CLEARED OUTWARDS
IN THE PORT OF ANNAPOLIS IN MARYLAND"¹

1774

Decemr 1 Brig *Geddis*, John Harrison, Master, 50 tons, 7 men, for Liverpool
3500 Bushels of Wheat, 1400 Staves & Heading

1. Port of Entry Books, 1745–1775, MdHS. The Entry Books contain both outward and inward entries for the ports of Patuxent, Annapolis, North Potomac, Oxford, and Pocomoke, but only those for Annapolis contain entries for 1775. The Annapolis books, include entries for the port of Chester, on the Eastern Shore, across the Chesapeake from Annapolis, and which was handled by a deputy naval officer. The entries are detailed and include the above information as well as the place where the vessel was built, by whom owned, and where last registered. The first inward entry, covering the period involved, will be found under date of December 29, 1774. The complete list of clearances for Europe and the West Indies will be found in Appendix A.

THEODORICK BLAND TO FARREL & JONES, BRISTOL MERCHANTS¹

Farmingdell [Va.] Decr. 1st, 1774

This acknowledges by us the Rect. of your favor of the 10th of Augt. by the Virginian Capt. J. Aselby, in which was enclosed my acct, Current, Nt. Proceeds 8–11–2 for two Hhds. Tobo. for which sum, with the Intt. thereon (at 60 days) amounting to 4s/4 I have drawn a Bill in favor of Mr. Chs. Duncan amounting to 8–15–6, which I doubt not will be duely Honour'd. I must confess the low price I have got for my Tobo. does not afford me great encouragement to try the Port of Bristol as a Market for that Commodity. especially when I consider that part of the same crop, & what was deem'd Rather inferior in Quality Netted me Seven Pounds twelve & Sixpence from Liverpool, my intention was to encrease my Commission to Yr. Port, But I think no man can be expected to run upon his ruin with his Eyes open. You will therefore excuse my not complying with yr. request to assist Capt. Aselby in his Loading. I shd. have vested the small Proceeds in Goods. But the present political disputes between these Colonies & the Mother Country which threaten us with a deprivation of our Liberties and every thing that is dear to us, forbids such a step and induces us to exert every nerve to immitate the spider and spin from our own Bowels, altho the Webb shd. be our Winding Sheet. This is the determined resolution of every American as far as I can hear from Nova Scotia to Georgia, nor wd. any consideration induce a Virginian at this time to ship one Hhd. of Tobo. were it not to pay there debts as nearly as possible before the Arrival of the 10th day of Septr. Next at which time the non importation takes place, & will be I believe Religiously adhered to, unless our grievances are fully redressed before that time. What will be the Consequence shd. the Corrupt Aristocracy which at present rules the British Councils persevere in their arbitrary Measures with respect to America God only knows this Part of the Continent tho Ardently desirous of a *constitutional* reconciliation are to a

man, determined that that day which deprives them of their liberties, shall also deprive them of their existence.

I shd. not have troubled you so long an Epistil had I not thought it a duty I owed my Country to apprise every person in England with whom I was in the slightest manner connected of the Sentiments of the People of this Country which perhaps may be well known before this reaches you, from many Publick Acts. you will therefore Sr. I hope excuse this intrusion. & believe me to be [&c.]

T Bland ²

1. Theodorick Bland Papers, LC.

2. Theodorick Bland (1742–1790), retired physician and Virginia planter.

THEODORICK BLAND'S SATIRICAL ADDRESS TO FREDERICK LORD NORTH AND
GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

[Farmingdell, Va., December 1, 1774]

The Humble Address of the Merchants, inspectors, and [Pa]rtners, and other dependants on the Merchants and warehouses in the Town of Blandford and parts adjacent to the Right Honble Lord North, Genl Gage &c.&c.

We your Lordships most Humble admirers, and dutifull adherents having taken into our most [careful] consideration, Your Lordships & his excellency's [many] noble Virtues, and the bold and Laudable strid[es you have] lately made, to Arbitrary Government; and [industrious] and enterprising encroachments you have ma[de upon] the rights and prerogatives of the Crown; of grea[t Bri]tain; the Salutary and wholesome Corruption your lordship has, by your Wisdom, brought about in the British Parliament; and the noble attempts of your excellency (under the specious pretence of Personating the Best of Kings,) to fix on his Majesties Loyal & foolish Subjects of this Conduct [*sic!* continent] the Shackles of despotism; do think it prudent and Politic at this time when such general detestation and abhorrence is shewn by all *other ranks of People*; to shew our gratitude, and offer up our unfeigned thanks to you; for the prudent, Lenient, and steady measures you have undertaken, and are now pursuing to overturn the British Constitution, in England [and Ame]rica to its very foundation. We heartily a[gree] with you in your Laudable plan for th[is accomplishment] in hopes that your Lord[ship] & excellency [will] have effectuated your Laudable purpose, w[ill] look upon] us with an eye of benignity and generosity, [and] graciously considering the eminent service [we] have endeavourd to do to you [in heartily concurring and testifying our approbation in] your Plan and at the risque of the Good opin[ion] of the People of the Country wherein we reside, disdaining every application to us, to embrace their Sentiments or abet their Cause, tho evident by our interes[t] to do. And when it shall please the Devil for we disdain it [pleas'd you] to have [foiled] every attempt of the People of America; to establish and maintain their liberties & the Glorious Standard of Despotism shall be effectually planted & the free constitution of great Britain & America shall be overturnd [so] that then Yr Lordship, an[d] excellency, will amply [re]wa[rd] us and our posterity with

such employment & [as m]ay enable us to demonstrate (if possible) to you [how] much we are devoted to your purpose.

We cannot, Help testifying, our great Surprise and utter abhorrence; That a Certain John Tabb, a Mercht in a Neighbouring Town, & a Certain Nathaniel Burns Inspector in Blandford; shd (tho reputed men of the greatest honor and integrity,) have openly & foolishly disavowed these our Principles, and in the face of day, have Signed a factious, and Violent instrument, called the [asso]ciation, by which they forego all intercourse a[nd] commercial Connection not only with us your Lordships & Excellencys Friends; but also (after a c[er]tain time) with Great Britain herself. – We heartily lament, these and all Similar steps which have been, and are daily, taken in this infatuated Country, nay even by those we imprudently deputed to represent us, in a Convention and a congress of all the Colonies, whom we foolishly deemed the wisest and ablest men of this Colony; and in a Congress of all the Colonies whom we [little] thought would have been guilty [of] such a gross mistake as to prefer, a lasting Good to present profit.

After such assurances to which we have with the greatest pleasure, Signed our names, you cannot, doubt our friendly attachment, hoping therefore; that, you will soon subdue the factious and rebellious adherents to the British constitution in the Town of Boston, we ar[e led to] expect, that we may, be favord with a small deta[ch]ment, of Troops; and if it shall be found inconvenient to send any Part of the Officers of the Customs from Boston, that we or as many of us as shall be thought proper, may be appointed Commissioners, Cashiers, Land waiters, tide water messengers, Searchers, [in]spectors &c. of his majesties Customs, for w[e] apprehend that the Lucrative employmen[t we] now hold under the Tobacco Law will [come to] an end Firmly relying on your Lordsh[ip & Excel]lencies powerfull & irresistible protection, [ar]dently desiring to cooperate with your lordship [in] removing every obstacle that this infatuated Colo[ny] has thought proper to throw in the way of your Success, we humbly hope that when the prom[oters] of those measures inimical to your wise plans of Government, are, stigmatized and Branded to the British Parliament as rebels; We may be [appoint]ed, as peaceable, subjects, well effected to the constitution of our Country, and firm supporters of British liberty, that so we may be rewarded [] according to our deserts, and discord and faction be driven from the face of this Colony, with [Mili]tary Chastisement & Severest con[sequences].

Then May your Excellency return to your [home] Land, Loaded with the Spoils of America [and] with the Laurels of this Continent; and [that an amu]let of the fairest of them, be born along [also] to encircle the Ministerial Brow of the [illustrious] Lord North.²

1. Theodorick Bland Papers, LC.

2. This gem of satire, in the hand of Bland, is undated, but, from the context, seems to have been written at about the same time as the letter of December 1, 1774 to Farrel & Jones. The reference to the Continental Association and its adoption in Virginia would indicate such a date, as Bland, in the above letter, gives vent to the cause of liberty with the same clearness of expression and enthusiasm as he expresses in the satirical address. The draft is worn at the edges and torn, so that the exact phraseology may have escaped, but the logical words inserted within brackets cannot be far from the actual ones.

4 Dec. (Sunday)

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 1774 Decr 4th

In a Letter from Mr. [Philip] Stephens,² by the *Scarborough*, the Admiral . . . received directions for intercepting and securing any Gunpowder Arms or Ammunition, which might be attempted to be imported into North America, except the Master of the Ship or Vessel should produce a License from his Majesty, or the Privy Council for the exportation thereof from Great Britain, But the Admiral received no directions for his Conduct should the Provincials, as might be expected, persist in their rebellious Behaviour and proceed to Acts of Violence against his Majestys Forces by Sea or Land.

The *Gaspee* Brig coming in from the Fishery in Canso and Chaleur Bay &c, but last from Halifax she and the *Hopes* Tender were sent with a King's Pilot, and the Master of the *Mercury*, and an Officer belonging to the *Hope* Schooner (all good Pilots for the Coast and Harbours) with Orders to cruize in Boston Bay and about Cape Cod for the three large Ships expected from England: and the *Tartar*, *Lively* and *Canceaux* were ordered to get ready for Sea.

1. The Conduct of Vice-Admiral Graves in North America in 1774, 1775 and January 1776, Gay Transcript, I, 31, MassHS. Original in British Museum, Ms 14038:1:46v. Hereafter cited as Graves's Conduct, MassHS Transcript. Graves (1713-1787) at that time was Vice Admiral of the Blue.
2. Philip Stephens, (1725-1809), Secretary of the British Admiralty.

5 Dec.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1774

Boston, December 5

Last Saturday Evening the *Scarborough* Man of War, Capt. Barclay arrived here from England, with Dispatches for his Excellency Governor Gage: ¹ Capt. Barclay left Plymouth the 24th of October, and has brought London Papers.

1. General Thomas Gage (1721-1787), commissioned Captain General and Governor in Chief of His Majesty's Province of Massachusetts Bay on April 5, 1774.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 5th [December, 1774]

The *Asia* arrived this morning, with Major Pitcairne on board and part of a reinforcement of 460 Marines, exclusive of the Complement of the Ship.

1. John Barker, *The British in Boston Being the Diary of Lieutenant John Barker of the King's Own Regiment from November 15, 1774 to May 31, 1776; With Notes by Elizabeth Ellery Dana* (Cambridge, 1924), 10. Hereafter cited as Barker, *Diary*.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee of Baltimore Town at Grants this 5th December 1774 . . .

In Provincial Congress,

Cambridge, December 6, 1774.

THE Operation of the cruel and ~~in~~iquitous *Boston-Port-Bill*, that Instrument of ministerial Vengeance, having reduced our once happy Capital and the neighbouring Town of *Charlestown*, from Affluence and Ease, to extreme Distress; many of their Inhabitants being deprived of even the Means of procuring the Necessaries of Life: From all which they have most nobly refused to purchase an Exemption, by surrendering the Rights of Americans. And although the charitable Donations from the other Colonies, and several Towns in this Province, have in good Measure relieved their immediate Necessities, while their Approbation has animated them to persevere in patient Suffering for the public Good; yet as the Severity of Winter is now approaching, which must add greatly to their Misery; and there has been no general Collection for them in this Colony, we hold ourselves obliged in Justice to contribute to their Support, while they under such a Weight of Oppression are supporting our Rights and Privileges.

It is therefore RESOLVED, That it be recommended to our Constituents the Inhabitants of the other Towns, Districts and Parishes within this Province, that they farther contribute liberally to alleviate the Burden of those Persons who are the more immediate Objects of ministerial Resentment, and are suffering in the common Cause of their Country: Seriously considering how much the Liberty, and consequently the Happiness of Ourselves, and Posterity, depend, under GOD, on the Firmness and Resolution of those worthy Patriots.

And it is *Ordered*, That Doctor *Foster*, Mr. *Devens*, and Mr. *Cheever*, be a Committee to transmit printed Copies of the above RESOLVE to the Ministers of the Gospel in the several Towns, Districts and Parishes in this Province, who are desired to read the same to their several Congregations, in Order that their Contributions of such Necessaries of Life as they can spare, may be forwarded as soon as possible.

Signed by Order of the Provincial Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

A true Extract from the Minutes.

BENJAMIN LINCOLN, Secretary.

This Committee made choice of Samuel Purviance as Chairman, and William Smith as a deputy Chairman, to be continued as such; and they also chose Doctor John Boyd as Clerk.

On Motion the following question was put. Whether a vessel arriving within the Capes of Chesapeak, on or before the first of December, be an importation within the first Resolve of the [Continental] Congress, or not. Resolved in the affirmative 13-3

Captn Charles Reiley of the Ship *Charles*, from Liverpool, appeared before the Committee; and declared on Oath, that he was on the 30th of November at half past one o,Clock abreast of Cape Henry, and that he came to an Anchor the same Day in Lynhaven Bay, He declared that he had no Goods on board but Salt, Coale, Cordage and Linens; and that he did not Lade or bring in any Tea. The Committee are of opinion that this is an importation within the Terms of their Resolve.

1. Minutes of the Baltimore Committee, LC. Hereafter cited as Balt. Com., LC.

7 Dec.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a meeting of the Committee of Baltimore County held at Mr Grants December 7th 1774

Captn James Thomas of the Ship *William* from Bristol, appeared before the Committee, and declared on Oath, that he arrived within the Capes of Chesapeak Bay on the 30th Day of November last past, and that he has not imported himself, nor is there to the best of his knowledge, any East India Tea on board his Ship. The Captain at the same time produced his Log Book, which corresponded with his declaration aforesaid, respecting the time of his arrival in the Bay. The following Gentlemen, Importers of Goods in said Ship, appeared before the Committee, and made oath that they had not imported any East-India Tea in said Ship; William Smith, James Cheston, David Mitchell, William Neill, Christopher Johnston, and David M'Lure.

Captn Robert Johnston of the Ship *Elizabeth* from London-Derry having arrived in Chesapeak Bay after the first Day of December, appeared before the Committee, and declared on Oath that there is not, at present, nor has he imported in said Ship, Goods of any kind for Sale, except Seven pieces of Irish bagging, being his own private adventure which he engages to deliver into the hands of Mr Hercules Courtenay and Captn. George Woolsey, who are appointed by the Committee to receive and Sell them at public Vendue, and after paying the said Captn the first Cost and charges of said Goods, out of the Produce of the Sales, the remainder, if any, to be accounted for to the Committee by Messrs Courtenay & Woolsey, and applied by the Committee to the purposes in that case recommended by the Continental Congress.²

1. Balt. Com., LC.

2. The policy set by the Committee in the case of Captain Johnston's cargo was followed with all subsequent arrivals after December 1, 1774—the Continental Association's deadline for importations from the British Isles or British possessions. The procedure quickly became routine, and only cases on the unusual side will be considered hereafter.

8 Dec.

JOURNAL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF RHODE ISLAND ¹

[Providence, Thursday, December 8, 1774]

It is voted and resolved, that all the cannon now at Fort George ² (excepting two eighteen-pounders and one six pounder) and all the powder, shot and stores, thereto belonging (excepting so much powder and ball as are sufficient for the cannon to be left at said fort) be immediately removed to the town of Providence; that Col. Joseph Nightingale, ³ be, and he is hereby, appointed to see the same done.

That the commanding officer of the said fort be, and he is hereby, ordered to deliver the same to the said Joseph Nightingale; who is hereby directed to keep the cannon, ball, &c. in his possession, until further orders from this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the copies of the letter from the Earl of Dartmouth, to this colony, and of the order therein enclosed, now lying before this Assembly, be immediately sent to the Speaker of the lower House, to Thomas Cushing, Esq., the late speaker of the House of Representatives of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, to be communicated to the provincial congress, in that colony.

1. John Russell Bartlett, ed., *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation in New England, 1770 to 1776* (Providence, 1862), VII, 262, 263. Hereafter cited as Bartlett, ed., *Records of Rhode Island*.
2. Located on Fort Island in Newport Harbor.
3. A Colonel of Rhode Island militia, and partner in the Providence mercantile house of Clark & Nightingale.

10 Dec.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 10 decem. 1774

I had the honor of your Excellency's letter acquainting Me with your having Ordered two Vessels to be purchased for his Majesty's Service and desiring Signals for them to pass and repass the King's Ships under my Command. I have accordingly given directions for that purpose, upon their hoisting a Yellow Pendant when they at any time come near One of the Squadron.

I am Sir with great regard Your Excellency's [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

1. Gage Papers, CL.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 10th. [December, 1774]

We hear that the *Glasgow* Sloop of War from Halifax is in great danger within two or three leagues of the Light House.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 10.

Sir

Boston 10 decem. 1774

I had the honor of your Excellency's
Letter acquainting me with your having ordered
two Vessels to be purchased for his Majesty's Service
and desiring Signals for them to pass and
repass the King's Ships under my Command. I
have accordingly given directions for that
purpose, upon their hoisting a Yellow
Pendant when they at any time come
near One of the Squadron. I am Sir with
great regard Your Excellency's

Most Obedient and Most
humble servant

Sam^l Graves.

His Excellency General Gage

Vice Admiral Samuel Graves to Major General Thomas Gage, December 10, 1774.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1774

Providence, Dec. 10

We have Authority to inform the Public, that the Right Honourable the Earl of Dartmouth ¹ has written circular Letters to the several Governors on the Continent, signifying his Majesty's Command, that they take the most effectual Measures for arresting, detaining and securing, any Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, which may be attempted to be imported into the Colonies; ² and likewise inclosing an Order of the King in Council, prohibiting the Exportation thereof from Great-Britain or Ireland, of which the following is an exact Copy. At the Court of St. JAMES's, the 19th Day of October, 1774.

PRESENT

The KING's most excellent MAJESTY in Council,

Earl of Rochford,
Earl of Dartmouth,
Earl of Suffolk,

Lord Viscount Townshend
Lord Mansfield,
*Lord North.*³

WHEREAS an Act of Parliament was passed in the Twenty-ninth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King George the Second, intituled, "An Act to empower his Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Saltpetre, and to enforce the Law for empowering his Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, and also to empower his Majesty to restrain the carrying coastwise of Saltpetre, Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition:" And his Majesty judging it necessary to prohibit the Exportation of Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, out of this Kingdom, or carrying the same coastwise, for some Time, doth therefore, with the Advice of his Privy Council, hereby order, require, prohibit and command, that no Person or Persons whatsoever (except the Master-General of the Ordnance for his Majesty's Service) do, at any Time during the Space of Six Months from the Date of this Order in Council, presume to transport into any Parts out of this Kingdom, or carry coastwise, any Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, or ship or lade any Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, on board any Ship or Vessel, in order to transporting the same into any Parts beyond the Seas, or carrying the same coastwise, without Leave and Permission in that Behalf first obtained from his Majesty or his Privy Council upon pain of incurring and suffering the respective Forfeitures and Penalties inflicted by the aforementioned Act. And the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great-Britain, the Lord Warden of the Cinque-Ports, the

Master-General of the Ordnance, and his Majesty's Secretary at War, are to give the necessary Directions herein, as to them may respectively appertain.

Signed G. CHETWYND.

Sunday last [December 4] arrived at Boston the *Asia* Man of War, of 64 Guns, with 500 Marines more than her usual Complement. Three other ships of the Line were hourly expected.

1. William Legge, second Earl of Dartmouth (1731–1801), was Secretary of State for the Colonies.
2. The text of Lord Dartmouth's circular letter, dated Whitehall, 19th Octr. 1774, read: "His Majesty having thought fit, by his Order in Council this Day, to prohibit the Exportation from Great Britain of Gunpowder, or any sort of Arms or Ammunition, I herewith inclose to you a Copy of the Order, and it is His Majesty's Command that you do take the most effectual Measures for arresting, detaining & securing any Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, which may be attempted to be imported into the Province under your Government, unless the Master of the Ship, having such Military Stores on board, shall produce a Licence from His Majesty, or the Privy Council for the Exportation of the same from some of the Ports of this Kingdom." This copy is taken from the Gage Mss., CL.
3. The Privy Council, in addition to Dartmouth, consisted of William Henry Zuylenstein, 5th Earl of Rochford (1754–1830); Henry Howard, 12th Earl of Suffolk (1754–1830); George, 4th Viscount Townshend (1747–1807); William Murray, 1st Earl of Mansfield (1705–1793); and Frederick, Lord North (1732–1792), the Prime Minister.

"JAMES RIVER NAVAL OFFICE, MANIFEST BOOK 1774–1775"¹

1774 [A Manifest of the lading on board the] Ship *Kattie*, James Clarke,
Dec. 10 Master, bound for London

Four hundred and thirty-four Hogsheads Tobacco & nine thousand five hundred Staves

1. VSL. This is perhaps the only manifest book extant for the period beginning at the time the Continental Association became effective, and concluding on September 9, 1775, after which date all exports to Great Britain, Ireland and the British West Indies ceased. All outward-bound cargoes were sworn to before Lewis Burwell, the James River Naval Officer. The principal item shipped from the James River was, of course, tobacco. Along with it, however, went thousands of barrel staves in each cargo. For the complete Manifest Book, see Appendix B. Trade from the James River was predominantly to Glasgow. Of the sixty-eight vessels cleared in the prescribed period, forty were destined for the Scottish port; thirteen for London; seven for Whitehaven; three each to Falmouth and Liverpool; and two to Bristol.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA¹

Wilmington, 10th December 1774.

Mr John Slingsby & Co inform the committee that they have imported in the brig *Diana* Capt Authven, master, from Glasgow since the first instant a cargo of goods for their store in this town, amounting to £1916 7s 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ d, sterling and another cargo for their store at Cross Creek amounting to £1018 13s 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. sterling and delivered the same with the invoices thereof into the hands of the committee requesting that they may be sold agreeable to the association of the General Congress.

Resolved, therefore that the sale of the said goods be on Wednesday the 14th inst and that public notice thereof be given immediately

1. W. L. Saunders, comp., *The Colonial Records of North Carolina* (Raleigh, 1890), IX, 1095. Hereafter cited as Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*.



Frederick North, Second Earl of Guilford. By Nathaniel Dance, date unknown.

11 Dec. (Sunday)

CAPTAIN WILLIAM MALTBY, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Glasgow at Cohasset 11h. Decr. 1774

Sir, His Majesty's Ship under my Command ² ran on the Rocks at this Place Yesterday Morning at 5 O'Clock. She is now at an Anchor in a very narrow Place environ'd with Rocks and about half her Length from some of them, her Rudder is lost and she has received very considerable damage, if timely Assistance arrives, I hope She will be saved, She now makes as much Water as all the Pumps can free, I am taking every Method for her Preservation, but want Craft for Her Guns &ca. as there is a little more Water than She draws at Low Water, but it would be very dangerous to throw her Guns Overboard here as She would strike on them at Low Water; for other particulars I refer You to the Bearer who seems to be a very communicative and civil Person. I am Sir [&c.]

Will^m Maltby

P.S. Bearer's Name Ebenezer Dickinson

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

2. H.M.S. *Glasgow*, 20 guns and 130 men, was returning from a complete overhaul at Halifax.NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 1774 Decr. 11th.

About Six this Evening Information coming of the *Glasgows* running upon Rocks, Lieut. [George] Dawson in the *Hopes* Tender was immediately ordered to her Assistance and to acquaint her Captain that every Help possible should follow; and accordingly a large Wood Sloop with a Lieutenant petty Officers and 40 men with necessary Geer sailed in the Night.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 32, MassHS Transcript.

JAMES BEEKMAN TO FLUDYER, MARSH, HUDSON, AND STREATFIELD, LONDON
MERCHANTS ¹

Per Captain Couper.

[New York] Dec. 11, 1774

I have now before me your several Favors of the 27th August. 23rd of September and 14th of October last. And Note their contents. The first acknowledging the Receipt of a Remittance from Captain John Walker at Barcelona for £400 Stg. one half on Account of my Brother Gerard and the other half on my own account. for which have made you Debtor, and have given you Credit for £52.6.11 Amount of a Bale Merchandize you shipped me per Captain Couper as per Invoice. that of 14th October inclosing my account current with Messrs. Flyuder Marsh and Hudson ballance in my favour £82.1.4 which I have examined and found correct and have past the same to the Debit of your account. I should have sent you a Spring order, had we not been prevented by the unhappy misunderstanding that at present Subsists between Great Brittain and the Colonies, which has brought us under the disagreeable necessity of entring into a Non Importation agreement, untill proper redress of American Greivances is obtained, which [I am] in hopes of speedily acquiring.

1. Philip L. White, ed., *The Beekman Mercantile Papers, 1746-1799* (New York, 1956), II, 755. Hereafter cited as White, ed., *Beekman Papers*.

The BOSTON

Evening-Post.

Containing the freshest & most important

Advices, Foreign and Domestick.

Printed by THOMAS and JOHN FLEET, at the HEART and CROWN in Cornhill.

Remainder of the Piece begun in our Paper of the 28th ult.

To the Gentlemen Officers in the Army.

UNCERTAINTY is the never-failing concomitant of every thing future. But could we know, beyond the possibility of delusion, that complete victory, at a chess game, would ultimately declare for us? Yet should we with laboured assiduity evade the question—From our unwillingness to see our countrymen's blood

searched into all the abstruse corners of truth, and thence unfolded in the intricate regions of metaphysics. Thus religion and learning, liberty and science, wealth and power, lift up their heads together, and tread, side by side, the stage of edification. Now view the end.

When once despotism, a dreadful Hydra, dispensing more cruelties than ever issued from Phœbe's bow, with gigantic strides begins to stalk, the blessings of liberty are all on tip-toe. Ignorance and barbarity, carnage and poverty, wait at her elbow. To confine to slaves, libels to the honour of anti-slavery.

WILLIAMSBURG, (Virginia) Nov. 10. The Hon. Peyton Randolph, Esq; has received the following letter from Genl. GAGE, in answer to that which is him by the General Congress, on the 10th of Oct. last.

To the Hon. PAYTON RANDOLPH, Esq;
Boston, Oct. 30, 1774.
REPRESENTATIONS should be made with candour, and matters stated exactly as they stand.

to persecute one another any more: and as for the Roman Catholic church, it never will not as have such a footing in a country peopled by refugees from civil and religious tyranny, as to enable it to exercise its bloody powers there. "That may be (said Mr. Whitefield) but I never can believe that CHATY would redeem America, and have no MARTYRS there to deal with their blood the truth of His Religion."

BOSTON, Dec. 12.

We learn from undoubted authority, that Lord Dartmouth, Secretary of State, has wrote a Circular Letter to the Governors upon this Continent, informing them that his Majesty has thought fit by his Order in Council, dated the 19th of October, to prohibit the Exportation from Great Britain of Gun-Powder or any sort of Arms and Ammunition; and has signified to their highnesses's Command that they do take the most effectual Measures for arresting, detaining and securing any Gun Powder, or any sort of Arms or Ammunition, which may be attempted to be imported into the Province over which they respectively preside, unless the Master of the Ship having such Military Stores on board, shall produce a Licence from his Majesty or the Privy Council for the Exportation of the same from some of the Ports of Great-Britain.

On the 17th of November, after a lingering and wasting Illness, departed this Life the Rev Mr. Seth Storer, Pastor of the Church of Christ in Watertown, in the 73d Year of his Age, and 51st of his Ministry; who by the firmness of his Doctrine, constancy, steadiness and fidelity to his Lord's Work, and by a pious, prudent, blameless and exemplary Conversation, approved himself a good Minister of Jesus Christ; and through the whole Course of his Ministry has been esteemed and respected by his Brethren, as well as by the People of his Charge. He has left a sorrowful Widow, but no Child: However, we trust God has given him a Name better than of Sons & of Daughters; an everlasting Name that shall not be cut off.

MARRIED. Rev. Mr. Moses Everett, of Dorchester, to Mrs. Lucy Balch, Daughter of the late Rev. Mr. Balch, of Dedham.—Mr. William Bell to Miss Elizabeth Emery.—At Salem, Doct. Peter Oliver to Mrs. Love Frye, Daughter of Col. Frye of that Town.—At Newbury, Mr. John Carr to Miss Betty Little, Daughter of Capt. Moses Little.

DIED. Mrs. Hannah Winter, aged 60, a noted School-Mistress in Winter-Street.

In the Alma-House, Mr. Robert Hill, late a Carter.—Mr. B. is a Seafaring Man.

At Southampton in England, Mrs. Gayton, Consort of Admiral Gayton, now on the Jamaica Station.

And it is likewise strongly recommended to the committees of inspection (which ought immediately to be chosen separately to the said assistance by each town and district) to the colony, not being already appointed such committees; that they exert themselves in causing the execution, as thereby directed, to be strictly executed. And that after the said tenth day of October (unless the acts of parliament aforesaid are repealed) they apply to all the merchants and traders in their respective towns and districts, and take a full inventory of all the goods, wares and merchandise aforesaid in their possession, whether they shall have been in or before or after the first of December aforesaid; requiring them to offer no more for sale, until said acts shall be repealed, and if any merchant, trader or other, shall refuse to have an inventory taken, or shall offer for sale after the said tenth of October, any such goods, wares or merchandise, it is expressly recommended to the committee aforesaid, that they take the goods into their possession to be stored at the risk of the proper owners, until the repeal of the acts aforesaid, and publish the names of such refractory merchants, traders or purchasers, that they may meet with the merits of enemies to their country. And the towns and districts throughout the province are also desired, that they by no means fail vigorously to assist and support their committees, in discharging this as well as the other duties of their offices, and to cause this resolution to be executed by every means which they shall think necessary.

Signed by order of the Provincial Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

A true extract from the minutes,

BENJAMIN LANCHE, Sec'y.

BOSTON—December 12, 1774.

At a meeting of the freemen, and other inhabitants of the town of Boston, at Faneuil-Hall, on Wednesday the 7th inst. by adjournment.

The following committee of fifty three persons were appointed to carry into execution in the town of Boston the agreement and resolution of the late respectable Continental Congress, viz. Hon. Tho. Cushing, Mr. Eben. Hancock, Mr. Moses Gill, Hon. John Hancock, Mr. Wm. Greenleaf, Mr. Tho. Boylston, Mr. Samuel Adams, Mr. Sam. Whitwell, Capt. John Mifflin, William Phillips, Esq; Mr. Hermon Brimmer, Mr. New. Greenough, Col. Marshall, Mr. Martin Beaman, Mr. Moses Grant, Mr. John Pitts, Mr. John Boyer, Mr. Foster Goody, Mr. Oliver Woodall, Dr. Benj. Church, Hon. Bromfield, Esq; Mr. Samuel Austin, Dr. J. Joseph Warren, Mr. Cyrus Baldwin, Benjamin Austin, Esq; Joseph Greenleaf, Esq; Mr. Ben. Foster, Capt. Davis, Esq; Capt. Benj. Waldo, Mr. Isaac Pierce, Mr. William Davis, Capt. John Pulling, Mr. Enosh Brown, Mr. William Whitwell, Mr. Paul Revere, Mr. Joseph Eames, Mr. Samuel Barrett, Mr. John Wentworth, Mr. Henry Bag, Jonathan Mifflin, Esq; Mr. Samuel Pitts, Capt. John Bradford, Capt. Riddick, Mr. Josias Brackett, Capt. John Brown, Dr. Charles Jarvis, Jon. Williams, Esq; Mr. William Powell, Mr. Thomas Clarke, Mr. Edward Davis, Major Boynton, Major Nath. Barker, Capt. Elias Johnson, Ensign Cheever, Esq; Capt. Forster Vernon, Mr. Elias Perkins, Capt. Edw. Proctor, Capt. Job Prince, Mr. John Avery, Mr. James Lewis, Capt. Hopkins, Dr. Nath. Noyes.

Severe as to be a Quorum.

At the above meeting the following gentlemen viz Jonathan Williams, Esq; moderator present. The Hon. James Otis, Esq; Dr. Benjamin Church, Dr. Joseph Warren, Mr. John Pitts, Josiah Greenleaf, Esq; and Mr. William Cooper, were appointed a Committee to draft a Vote of Thanks of the Town of Boston, in respect of their Conduct for the benevolent Assistance

Provincial Congress; and also gave Orders to the Constables & Collectors to pay Henry Gardner, Esq; of Stow, Motes which they then had, or in future might have in their Hands belonging to the Province, agreeable to a Resolve of the Provincial Congress, who have considered the late Treasurer Gray unworthy of any further confidence: and an avowed Enemy to the Rights of America.

Several Parcels of Sheep, which were on the point of being shipped from Rhode-Island, were stopped last Week, in compliance with the Association of the Congress; some of the Sheep were on board.

John Collins, Esq; and Capt. Nathaniel Mansford, of Newport, one having 100, and the other 40 Sheep ready to ship off, voluntarily declined sending them.

By the Papers printed on this Continent, we find that large Committees are appointed and appointing throughout the Colonies, to see that the Regulations of the Congress are punctually complied with.

We hear that the People of South-Carolina, at the Time their Delegates returned from Philadelphia, collected together the greatest Part of the Tea they had by them and burnt it.

Extract of a Letter from Virginia, Nov. 30.

"A few days ago a Ship arrived at York River from London, with a few Chests of Tea on board, which were immediately destroyed, and it was with great difficulty the Ship was saved from being burnt. She is ordered to return in 20 days, without any loading whatever; but as she is consigned to a Person who had no concern in shipping the Tea, it is thought she will have leave to go to the West Indies."

NEW-LONDON, Nov. 29.

The Committees of Correspondence for the Towns of New-London and Groton, being informed that Mr. Phillip Dumaresq, Merchant of Boston, who was one of the Addressors to Governor Hutchinson, arrived at New-London last Evening, and put up at Mr. Thomas Allen's, Innholder; they thereupon waited on him at 9 o'clock in the Morning, and informed him that it would be disagreeable to the Inhabitants of the aforesaid Towns for him to continue long in said New-London; and entered into a free Conversation with him relative to said Address. He assured them that he was sorry he ever signed it, and gave them the following underwritten Declaration, which was approved of by the said Committees.

Whereas I signed as Address to the late Governor Hutchinson, in which I had no other View than the Welfare of Great Britain and her Colonies, a Resolution in which I imagined would be forwarded thereby;—but being now sensible that it was an Error, I am very sorry that I signed it, and hope this sincere Declaration will restore me in the Favour of all true Friends to the Constitution of both Countries.

PH. DUMARESQ.

12 Dec.

Boston Evening Post, MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1774

Boston, Dec. 12.

We learn from undoubted authority, that Lord Dartmouth, Secretary of State, has wrote a Circular Letter to the Governors upon this Continent, informing them that his Majesty has thought fit by his Order in Council, dated the 19th of October, to prohibit the Exportation from Great Britain of Gun-Powder or any sort of Arms and Ammunition; and has signified to them his Majesty's Command that they do take the most effectual Measures for arresting, detaining and securing any Gun Powder, or any sort of Arms or Ammunition, which may be attempted to be imported into the Province over which they respectively preside, unless the Master of the Ship having such Military Stores on board, shall produce a Licence from his Majesty or the Privy Council for the Exportation of the same from some of the Ports of Great-Britain.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM MALTBY, R.N. TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Glasgow at Cohasset 12th 1. PM. Decr 1774

Sir, I have your favor by Mr [Ebenezer] Dickinson, Lieutenant [Alexander] Gr[a]eme is arrived in the Sloop; Lieutenant [Joseph] Nunn in the *Halifax*; Mr [William] Lechmere by Land; You may be assured I shall lose no time or Opportunity in doing everything in my power for the Preservation of the Ship, an able Carpenter with two or three of that Profession would be of great Service in constructing a Rudder of this Plan.² I purpose to get the Ship in safety to Night if possible, until I can get her in a Condition to come to Boston; If the 40 Men are completed to a 100. it will vastly contribute to forward the Ship as her Men are much fatigued already; I must refer You to Lt Lechmere for particulars of which he has heard and seen, and am Sir, [&c.]

Will^m Maltby

PS. the reason I mention the Men after what You have said in your Letter, the Officers are of Opinion that the King's Men are more to be depended on than Others.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

2. The rudder plan was not included in the copy Graves enclosed to the Admiralty.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1774

Newport, December 12

Last Friday and Saturday [December 9 and 10] all the cannon belonging to Fort George, except 4, were carried to Providence, with the shot, &c. from whence they may be easily conveyed into the country, to meet the Indians and Canadians with which the colonies are threatened.

The Tory faction in this town, the beginning of last week, grinn'd horrible a gastly smile, and prophesied there would be high *fun* by Saturday night; however, they have been some how most shockingly disappointed, as 'tis hoped they always will be.

Yesterday the *Rose* man of war¹ arrived here, from New London, and anchor'd between the north end of Goat-island and this island.

1. H.M.S. *Rose*, 20 guns and 130 men, Captain James Wallace.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N. TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

(Copy) *Rose*, Newport Harbour, Rhode Island 12th December 1774

Sir, Yesterday I arrived in this port, with His Majesty's Ship under my Command, from New London, on a cruise, of which I had the honour to acquaint You, the 8th instant.

Since my absence from this Place, I find the Inhabitants (they say here of Providence) have seized upon the King's Cannon that was upon Fort Island, consisting of six twenty-four Pounders, eighteen eighteen Pounders, fourteen six Pounders, and six four Pounders (the latter they say, formerly belonged to a Province Sloop they had here) and conveyed them to Providence.

A procedure so extraordinary, caused me to visit upon the Governour,² to inquire of him, for your information, why such a step had been taken. He very frankly told me, they had done it to prevent their falling into the hands of the King, or any of his Servants; and that they meant to make use of them, to defend themselves against any power that shall offer to molest them.

I then mentioned, if, in the course of carrying on the King's Service, I should ask assistance, whether I might expect any from him, or any others in the Government.

He answered as to himself he had no Power, and in respect to any other part of the Government I should meet with nothing but opposition and difficulty. So much for Governor Wanton.

Then I endeavoured to get the best information of what they were at, from all Quarters, and enclosed I send it to you.³ Among some of their votes you will find they intend to procure Powder and Ball and Military stores of all kinds, wherever they can get them.

Now, Sir, I submit to your Consideration, as there are three large and distant Channells to Providence the Place the most probable they will attempt to land them whether the Assistance of some smaller Vessels would not be necessary in order to prevent them. What can be done by the *Rose* shall not be neglected. I am Sir [&c.]

Ja^s Wallace

Inclosed is the State and Condition of His Majs Ship *Rose*

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

2. Governor Joseph Wanton.

3. The enclosures were some resolves of the Rhode Island Assembly setting up a military structure.

New York Gazette, MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1774

New-York, Dec. 12.

On Tuesday last [December 6] his Majesty's Ship *Swan*,¹ commanded by Capt. James Ayscough, weighed Anchor for Boston, by Way of the Sound.

We hear that at a Meeting of the General Committee of this City and County, two Sub-Committees were appointed to superintend the Sales of two Cargoes of Goods arrived here since the first Day of December. And that it was the opinion of the Committee, that all Goods, Wares and Merchandize, enumerated in the first Article of the Association of the Continental Congress, should be subject to the Regulations contained in the tenth Article.²

Last Week several Parcels of Goods were sold here agreeable to the Association entered into by the Continental Congress; and many more will be disposed of this Week in the like Manner, as the *Lady Gage*, Captain [Thomas] Mesnard, that arrived here last Friday Night [December 9] has a tolerable Cargo on board.

1. H.M.S. *Swan*, a sloop of 14 guns and 100 men.

2. The Continental Association, adopted by the First Continental Congress on October 20, 1774, forbade importation of British goods into the American Colonies after December 1, 1774, and specified that all exports to Great Britain should cease after September 10, 1775.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS, LONDON ¹

[Extract]

Charles Town So Carolina 12 Decemr 1774.

p Mr. Pringle in Capt White.

After I had embarked on board *Le Despenser* the 7th Ulto I wrote you as well as circumstances would permit a few Lines in answer to yours of the 3d which reached me on the point of departing from Falmouth, my Letter was sent on Shoar to be put into the Post office by persons who were Strangers to me, the Consideration of which had led me to this particular retrospect.

I had in the general an excellent passage from Falmouth to the Coast of Carolina, fair wind & pleasant mild air we got into sounding 15 fathms the 32d day but happened to fall in Soward of the Bar which converted the fair into an adverse Wind & gave us the trouble of two Days beating up – In the Evening of the Second an unskilful young Man was put on board our Vessel in Character of a Pilot & he took upon himself the charge of conducting her the next day into this Harbour but an hour before Midnight I felt a violent Shock in Bed which awoke & started me up – Gracious God Said I, surely the Vessel struck Ground this Instant or I dreamt So, the murmur was Scarcely expressed, when I heard the Captain's Voice, Oh, I Shall loose my Ship, My Dear Mr Laurens I Shall loose my Ship! – Ah Sir Ah Captain I answered I am Sorry for your loss but compose your Self & be Steady recover your Spirits & let us think of means for Saving Lives – then I hastned upon Deck where the Wind blew Strong, it was freezing piercing Cold & a rough Sea but less so than it would have been had not the Wind blown from the Land Side – uncomfortable weather for Swimming or attempting the escape of twenty one persons in two Small inconvenient Boats, Breakers to be encountered, ten or twelve Miles from Shoar & Seven long hours of Night before us, perceiving the Commander continued wailing & discomposed I addressed by old acquaintance the Master Talbot & his Brother the Mate both active Seamen admonished them to be Steady not alarmed – the pilot I comforted

dont be frighted pilot by the accident – recollect your Self, think where we are & for means of getting us off again if possible – I ran below & brought up two Lanthorns with Lighted Candles & prevailed on the Boatswain to hoist them on the Ensign Staff to Shew our distress to Vessels which were following us in order to claim their Aid as well as to caution one in particular which was very near & coming hastily into the Same danger, this Step had the good effect of turning that Vessel instantly back again, in the mean time Master Talbot his Brother & the sober young fellows under them were acting their parts with judgement & boldness – do this – do that Said Talbot & he was obeyed, the Ship Struck about eleven times, the Scene was awful, a high Wind, excessively Cold thumping admist Breakers on a Bank in the open Ocean in the forepart of a long Night, Boats not good – I then thought of a phrase in one of your last Letters, “Stageless Voyage” So descriptive of Eternity. I considered or rather the thought was introduced in my mind that I was born to Die & I did not find my Self miserable in the seeming extremity, I was a helpless hand & could do nothing more than to repeat & press my advice to those who were Skilful & could work, to be steady & undaunted which I perceived had a good effect; the people were animated active and Calm, every proper means was used & it was fortunately from a flowing Tide, the Ship was got off & into deep Water again – we narrowly & amazingly escaped – I felt a humble thankful heart & retired to my Bed again . . . next Morning that is to Say yesterday we took in another Pilot who brought our Vessel to anchor about Noon not far from opposite to Mr Rose’s Wharf where I landed & preceeded immediately to this House . . .

I have only learned Since my arrival what I Suppose you have known for a Month past I mean of our American public affairs, that the Inhabitants of 12 United Links of this Chain of Colonies from New Hampshire to South Carolina have unanimously determined to make a firm & Steady opposition to the Measures adopted by Administration for enslaving us & our posterity – there is a Spirit here which Surpasses all expectation its continuance will depend upon the Wisdom & policy of those Resolutions & associations by which we are at present bound – these I have not yet Seen, no doubt you have as they are before this day made public in all parts of Great Britain, fathom them & give me your opinion – dont take either Side & form a partial opinion – but reflect well before you write, I write this hint because I know you are an American Zealot & may be in good time an Enthusiast – I am both where I see the way clear before me. – therefore I am so in the grand points of our controversy. – I look forward now & perceive more fully those impending distresses which I have often pointed out to you, as the certain consequences of tenacity on both parts, but many people here I fear are not aware of them – I am not afraid of encountering even poverty – if we are all of the Same opinion we Shall in – time Surmount every difficulty – but where am I running to – the Vessel is to Sail toMorrow Morning – I must conclude. . . .

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–1775, SCHS.

13 Dec.

Essex Gazette, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1774

Salem, December 13.

We hear that a Regiment of Troops embarked last Sabbath [December 11] at Boston, said to be destined for this Place, for the Purpose of "arresting, detaining and securing Gun Powder."

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY AND CITY OF ANNAPOLIS ¹

[Annapolis] December 13, 1774

The schooner *Polly*, Reuben Hawes, master, having arrived in this province since the 1st instant, with twenty-three pipes of Madeira wine, the property of Messrs James Dice and Anthony Stewart, and another pipe the property of Dr. George Stewart, shipped the 5th day of October last; and Mr. Stewart requesting that the said wines should be sold under the direction of the committee, according to the tenth article of the [Continental] association; the same wines were sold after due notice, at the coffee-house, under the Direction of the committee —

The prime cost and charges of the 24 pipes	Sterling of wine
	440 . . 9 . . 7½
Sold for	442 . . 0 . . 8½
	<hr/>
Profit for Boston ²	1 . 11 . . 1

John Duckett, clerk of committee

1. *Maryland Gazette*, Annapolis, December 15, 1774.

2. To be used for the relief of the poor in Boston.

14 Dec.

COPY OF A LETTER FROM CAPTN. [JOHN] COCHRAN COMMANDER OF WILLIAM & MARY CASTLE IN NEW-HAMPSHIRE TO GOVERNOR [JOHN] WENTWORTH, DATED 14TH, DECR. 1774 ¹

May it please your Excellency: I received your Excellency's favour of yesterday, and[d] in obedience thereto kept a strict watch all night, and added two men to my usual number, being all I could get. Nothing material occurred till this day one o'clock, when I was informed there was a number of people coming to take possession of the Fort, upon which, having only five effective men with me, I prepared to make the best defence I could, and pointed some Guns to those places where I expected they would enter. About three o'clock the Fort was beset on all sides by upwards of four hundred men. I told them, on their peril, not to enter; They replied they would. I immediately ordered three four pounders to be fired on them, and then the small arms, and before we could be ready to fire again, we were stormed on all quarters, and they immediately secured both me and my men, and kept us prisoners about one hour and a half, during which time they broke open the Powder House, and took all the powder away, except one barrel, and having put it into boats and sent it off, they released me from my confinement. To

which can only add, that I did all in my power to defend the Fort, but all my efforts could not avail against so great a number.

I am your Excellency's &c.

cfffs:

1. Force, comp. *American Archives*, 4th, I, 1042. Cochran's letter was enclosed in John Wentworth's letter of the same date.

JOHN WENTWORTH, GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO
VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Portsmouth New hampshire 14th. Decr. 1774

Sir It is with the utmost Concern I find Myself called upon by my Duty to the King to communicate to You a most unhappy Affair perpetrated here this Day.

Yesterday in the Afternoon One Paul Rivere ² arrived in this Town Express from a Committee in Boston to another Committee in this Town, and delivered his Dispatch to Mr. Saml. Cutts a Merchant of this Town who immediately convened a Committee of which he is one, and as I learn laid it before them.

This Day about Noon before any Suspicions could be had of their Intentions, about four hundred Men were collected together, who proceeded to his Majesty's Castle William and Mary at the Entrance of this Harbour & forcibly took Possession thereof notwithstanding the best Defence that could be made by Capt. [John] Cochran (whose Conduct has been extremely laudable as You will see by the Inclosed Copy of His Letter) and by Violence carried away upwards of one hundred barrells of Powder belonging to the King deposited in the Castle—I am informed that Expresses have been circulated through the neighboring Towns to collect a number of People tomorrow or as soon as possible to carry away all the Cannon & Arms belonging to the Castle, which they will undoubtedly effect unless Assistance should arrive from Boston in time to prevent it.

This Event too plainly proves the Imbecility ³ of this Government to carry into Execution his Majesty's Order in Council for seizing & detaining Arms & Ammunition imported into this Province without some strong Ships of War in this Harbour. Neither is the Province or Customhouse Treasury in any Degree safe, if it should come into the Mind of the popular Leaders to seize upon them.

The principal Persons who took the Lead in this extraordinary Proceeding are well known. And upon the best Information I can obtain, the Mischief originates from publishing the Secretary of State's Letter & the King's Order in Council at Rhode Island, ⁴ prohibiting the Exportation of Military Stores from Great Britain and the Proceedings in that Colony in Consequence of it which have been communicated and circulated here by means of Mr. Rivere and the Dispatch he brought with him before which all was perfectly quiet & peaceable in the Place.

I am with the greatest Respect Sir [&c.]

J. Wentworth

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript. A letter of the same date and identical text, from Wentworth to General Gage, is in the Gage Papers, CL.
2. Paul Revere (1734–1818), whose more famous ride on April 18, 1775, has been celebrated in history, song, story and poetry.
3. Although Wentworth probably meant to write "inability," the word he used seems most apropos to the affair.
4. See *Providence Gazette*, December 10, 1775, which is the publication Wentworth referred to.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEWPORT, DATED DEC. 14 [1774]." ¹

The people here have, I think openly declared themselves against government, and in such a manner, as surely must be pronounced rebellion. – Is it possible that a people without arms, ammunition, money, or navy, should dare to brave a nation, dreaded and respected by all the powers on earth. – What black ingratitude to the parent state, who has nourished, protected and supported them from their infancy. – What can these things indicate but a civil war? Horrid reflection! and such as freezes the blood of every humane heart.

There has been a most extraordinary movement here a few days ago. – The public authority of the Colony have dismantled the King's fort, and moved all the cannon and stores to Providence, in order, it is said, to assist the Bostonians, against the King's troops.

Underneath is a list of the cannon

6	24 Pounders	}	.. given by the late King to the fort.
18	18 ditto		
14	6 ditto	}	belonging to the colony.
6	4 ditto		

God send us better times. Yours &c.²

1. James Rivington's *New York Gazetteer*, December 29, 1774.

2. In its issue of January 11, 1775, *Pennsylvania Journal* pronounced this letter "a lying Extract."

SAMUEL WARD TO JOHN DICKINSON ¹

[Extract]

Westerly [Rhode Island] 14th Decr. 1774

The Letter from Lord Dartmouth and the Copy of the Kings Order in Council Copies of which are enclosed were brought by the *Scarborough*, received by Express on Wednesday Evening last [December 7] and next Morning laid before the General Assembly. They immediately ordered Copies of them to be sent to Mr. [Thomas] Cushing to be communicated to the [Massachusetts] provincial Congress.² They ordered the Cannon at our Fort which was not tenable to be sent to Providence where it will be safe and ready for Service; 200 bbls of Powder and a proportionate Quantity of Lead and Flints and several Pieces of brass Cannon for the Artillery Company were ordered to be purchased . . . The Spirit and Ardor with which all this was done gave Me the highest Pleasure.

1. Samuel Ward Papers, RIHS.

2. Copies were also sent to the editor of the *Providence Gazette*. See December 10, 1774.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO ELIPHALET DYER ¹

[Extract]

New London Decemr 14th 1774

In consequence of the Cannon being mov'd from the Fort att New Port to Providence, we Yesterday Remov'd ours into the Cuntry, but I Lement the Unhappy Situation we are in for want of Powder, we are universally without any, for our Town Stock in this Town we have not a barrell and they know not ware to git any. I think if the Asembly is Cal'd they should Purchase 4 or 5 hundred

barrells. If they would Employ me to git it, unless sum Accident, I think I Could have that Quantity hear in Ten weeks. Yesterday Coln [Jedediah] Huntington and Coln [Joseph] Spencer ² were in Town and they both seem'd to be much in the opinion of the Necessity of sending for it Imediately, if it Should take with the Assembly, your mentioning my Name will be Agreeable as I have a small Vessell in Readiness that I am Certain is the fastest Sailor in the Colony, Can be Ready att a Days Warning. I am Sr

Nathl Shaw Jun^r

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL. The recipient is not named in the draft of the letter, but his identity is established by previous and subsequent letters in the Letter Book. Dyer [1721–1807] Connecticut lawyer and member of the Governor's Council.
2. These officers were out with the militia following the battle of Lexington, and subsequently were officers in the Continental Army.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA ¹

Wilmington 14th Dec 1774.

The Committee met at 6 o'clock P.M. Mr. Hereld Blackmore, informed that he had imported since the first instant in the Sloop *Mary* and the Brig——, five negro slaves, and craved advice how to proceed, as he had given orders for the purchasing and shipping said slaves previous to the resolutions of the provincial Congress. The committee desired that Mr. Blackmore, would not sell, or send them out of town, but be accountable for them at the next meeting – then adjourned to December the 17th, 1774

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*.

15 Dec.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO WILLIAM LEGGE, LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

Separate

Boston December 15th 1774

My Lord, Sir Joseph Yorke's ² Letter to the Earl of Suffolk, a Copy of which was inclosed with other Papers of Intelligence in Your Lordship's to be marked secret and Confidential of the 19th of October, confirms the Reports spread here, of People sending to Europe for all kinds of Military Stores. I hope this Intelligence is received in time to give a Chance of intercepting the Brigantine from Rhode Island with the 40 small Pieces of Ordnance on Board. Admiral [Samuel] Graves sent an Express immediately to order the Captain of the *Rose* Man of War at Rhode Island to look out for her, and the *Scarborough* is sailed with like Orders to the Commanders of the Kings Vessels on other Stations.

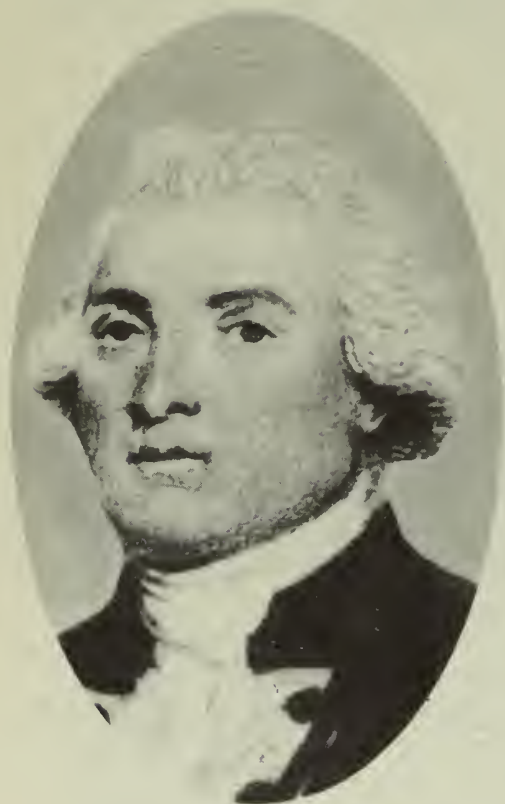
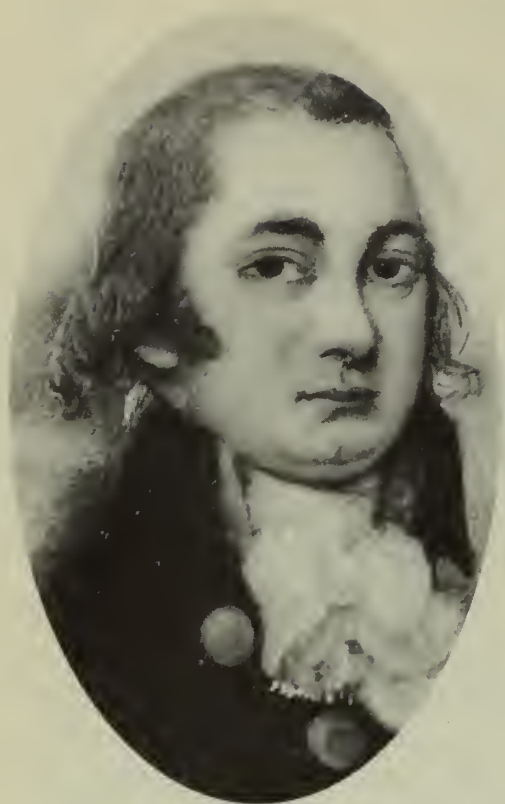
The twelve Field Pieces which we heard had been shipped in London for this Province, we have since been informed were not put on Board.

I have the honour to be with great Regard, Respect and Esteem My Lord [&c.]

Tho^s Gage

Right Honble Earl of Dartmouth, One of His Majtys principal Sectys of State

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/92, LC Transcript.
2. British Ambassador to The Hague.



(Top left) Philip Stephens. By an unknown artist, c. 1785. (Top right) Major General Thomas Gage. By Jeremiah Meyer, date unknown. (Bottom left) Lieutenant Henry Mowat. By an unidentified artist, date unknown. (Bottom right) Major John Pitcairn. By an unidentified artist, date unknown.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

Separate

Boston, December 15th 1774

My Lord, Your Lordship's Circular Letter of the 19th of October, inclosing an Order of the King in Council to prohibit the Exportation of Arms, Gun-Powder or other Military Stores from Great Britain is duely received. And I have concerted Measures with the Admiral and the Commissioners of the Customs for Stopping and Securing all Military Stores that shall be attempted to be imported into this Province except by Licence from his Majesty or the Privy Council.

The Circular Letters for the other Governors have been forwarded.

I have the honour to be with the greatest Regard, Respect, and Esteem, My Lord [&c.]

Tho^s Gage

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/92, LC Transcript.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

Boston December 15th 1774

The *Scarborough* arrived with your Lordship's Dispatches of the 17th of October No 11 on the 3d Inst, and Admiral [Samuel] Graves has consented to land all the supernumerary Marines which by Report may amount to above 400 Men, as soon as all arrive and Quarters are prepared, that Major [John] Pitcairne who commands those Marines may have a better Opportunity to form and discipline them, than if they remained on Board their Ships where they are crowded.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/92, LC Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY
OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY ¹

[Extract]

Preston Boston 15th Decr 1774

Sir On the 3d Instant his Majesty's Ship *Scarborough* anchored here from Spit-head and Captain [Andrew] Barkley delivered to me your Letter of the 14th October, acknowledging the Receipt of my Letters of the 31st of August, 3d of September, and Duplicate of the 8th of August . . .

Also your letter of the 20th of October inclosing a printed Copy of the Kings Order in Counsil prohibiting the Exportation of Gunpowder Arms Ammunition &c from Great Britain, with their Lordship's Directions for me to take the most effectual Methods for preventing the Importation thereof into any part of North America, which I shall punctually obey.

His Majesty's Ship *Asia* arrived the 5th and the *Boyne* the 9th By Captain [George] Vandeput I received Duplicates of your letters in the *Scarborough* and their Lordships Orders to take the *Asia*, *Boyne*, *Somerset* and *Scarborough* under my Command, as they arrive, and employ them in such manner as I shall judge best for his Majesty's Service; To hire two Marblehead Schooners; to hasten the *Hind* to the Leeward Islands without appointing a Captain to her; and containing their Lordships Orders about the Marines, borne as Supernumeraries in the differ-

ent ships, in Case the Service should require their being landed . . . I beg you will be pleased to assure their Lordships, that I shall attentively observe all their Orders to me, And in every Event according to the best of my Judgment endeavour to act for the good of his Majestys Service entrusted to my Care. . . .

Upon the Arrival of the considerable Reinforcements their Lordships have been pleased to send me, I have entirely altered the former Disposition of the Squadron. The large Ships with a Sloop and a few Schooners will I think be sufficient for the Service of this Harbour until the Spring; And in the mean time what Ships or Vessels can be spared will be doing considerable Service by being spread along the Coast to the Eastward, at places either notorious for smuggling, or where Arms and Ammunition are most ligely to be thrown in during the Winter. In this idea I have order the *Gaspee* Brig, lately returned from protecting the Fisheries in the Bay of Chaleur and Gaspee, with the *Halifax* Schooner to be stationed from Cape Elizabeth on one side of Casco Bay to Passamaquody harbour, and have given their Commanders Directions to take every opportunity of Winds and Weather to move suddenly from place to place, without their Intentions being previously made known to any person, by which means they will in the Course of this Season visit the greater part of the Harbours within the Limits of their Stations; and although they may not be successful in seizures, yet I apprehend the Knowledge of their being on the Coast may prevent considerable Importations of smuggled Goods and Arms and Ammunition. I have also sent the *Canceaux* armed Ship to lie at Piscataqua, and the *Lively* shall sail the first opportunity to Salem, where on Account of the considerable Commerce of that port, the presence of a Kings Ship, particularly at this Juncture, is highly necessary.

As the *Tartar* has been a long time off the Ground I have ventured on this occasion to spare her to go to Halifax, as well to guard the Arsenal, and assist in case of Accidents from fire or otherwise, as also that she may be cleaned and fitted early in the Spring to be ready to act upon any Emergency. If there should be no pressing occasion for her Service this way, I intend to station her in the Gulph and River St Laurence; She sailed accordingly from Boston last Monday [December 12], and, as the Weather has been Moderate and the Wind fair, I expect she is arrived at Halifax. Since the *Swan* has been under Orders to repair to Boston Captain [James] Ayscough has made several Seizures, which have detained him at New York 'till this time, and he has just informed me that he is quite ready to depart and will sail for Boston with the first fair Wind.²

The *Kingsfisher* is arrived at New York.³

The *Hope* Schooner went Yesterday to her Anchors after being repaired and sheathed. The great difficulty is procuring sheathing Board from the Sons of Liberty and the bad Weather have occasioned unavoidable delays in her repairing; however as she is now fit for a little longer service, I shall not send her to England directly, but keep her with me at Boston ready to depart with Dispatches upon any sudden occasion, till when she will assist in guarding this Harbour. . . .

As I do not consider the *Magdalen* of sufficient force to examine the great number of Vessels that Navigate in the Delaware, I intend to send the *Scarborough* there, but she is come from England so badly manned and is in other

respects so unfit to sail immediately, that it will be some days longer before I shall get her to sea.

I have heard nothing of the *Somerset* or *Hind*. The *Boyne* parted with the former in a gale of Wind off the Western Islands.

I transmit Copies of two Letters from Captn [William] Maltby of his Majesty's Ship *Glasgow*, who had the misfortune in returning from Halifax to run upon Cohasset Rocks in Boston Bay last Friday Morning the 10th instant [*sic*!, Saturday morning] before Day light; although it was generally imagined impossible to save the Ship, I have the pleasure to acquaint you that through the speedy and great assistance she received from the Squadron, we last night got her up to Boston. I am exceedingly concerned that this Accident has happened to a clean Ship, compleatly stored and victualled, on account of the great Loss to the Crown in Stores and the Expençe of Repairs, and of our being deprived of the Service of a good Ship. I shall immediately cause her to be surveyed to know the damage sustained, and have her repaired and fitted again with all possible dispatch.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 32–36, MassHS Transcript. This letter was completed next day; see December 16, 1774.
2. The *Swan* sailed from New York December 6; see extract from *New York Gazette*, December 12, 1774.
3. "New York, December 1 [1774]. Last Monday [November 28] arrived from Rhode Island, his Majesty's Ship *King Fisher*, commanded by Capt. James Montagu. This ship is appointed to relieve his Majesty's Ship *Swan*, commanded by Capt. James Ayscough, who will in a few days sail to join Admiral Graves, at Boston." *Ibid.*, December 1, 1774.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N., TO JOSEPH WANTON, GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND ¹

(Copy)

His Majesty's Ship *Rose*, Newport
Harbour, Rhode Island the 15th Decemr. 1774.

Upon the faith of the general Laws of Society, and imagining Myself in the King's Dominions, I Yesterday did Myself the Pleasure to spend the Evening with some Gentlemen of your Town, when to my great Surprize I was informed that some of your People intended to attack and insult me; Conscious to Myself, I never gave any Cause of Offence to any Person, and that it must be my Office they meant to insult I therefore think it my duty to enquire of You, whether it is War or Peace, or whether I can have the Countenance and Protection of You and the Laws, as my behaviour and Character entitle me to, I have the Honor to be with great respect [&c.]

James Wallace

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Rose, Newport Harbour Rhode Island 15th. December 1774.

Sir I think every Intelligence however trifling, relating to the King's Service, proper for your Information, which is an Apology for the following, – Last Night I was sitting at Mr. [George] Romes, with some Gentlemen of the Town of

Newport, when a Man came into the House and said there was a Mob raising with an Intent to tarr and feather the Captain of the Man of War, and the Man of the House; – I thought it best to be on my Guard and order my Pinnace and Cutter Mann'd and Armm'd to attend Me, determin'd to defend Myself like an Officer and an Englishman; About half an Hour after, We had Intelligence the Mob was up, and had broke the Custom-House Windows and entered two or three other Gentlemens Houses and done some damage; I waited six Hours expecting their Attack with about Eighteen of our People, but in all probability they got Intelligence, 'twas likely they would earn their Triumph dearer than they chose, they did not attack Us; As I did not mean to be alarmed at trifles or idle Reports, this Morning I wrote a Letter to the Governor (and inclosed is the Copy) and sent it by the Lieutenant; he has returned no written Answer, but told the Lieutenant he was well assured they did mean to insult Me, that he would be glad to give any Assistance, but was afraid of an Attack Himself from the People of Providence, seem'd to think the Town was not safe for the King's Subjects; such Sir is the Situation of the King's Ship here, the Officers, Boats, and Men likely to be seized upon whenever they see a convenient Opportunity: – I sent Mr [William] Lewis the Purser with a Packet dated the 12th. Inst. which I suppose You have received. I am, Sir, [&c.]

James Wallace

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO PETER VANDERVOORT & CO., NEW YORK ¹

Gentlemen

New London Decemr 15, 1774

I wrote you Yesterday by Mr Clements, have only to add that I have drawn on you in favour of Sam Belden in Two Orders to the Amo of £248, 8, 5 pay 30 Days Sight and hope by that time you will be in Cash to pay them. You must Send me Eight or Nine Casks of powder by the first opper. If I Should want Four or Five hundred Casks do you think it may be had in St Eustatia or Curraso. Should be Glad you would Inquire and let me know in your Next. If you draw on Mess Whartons ² for Five hundred pounds on my Accot Your Bill will be honor'd. I am [&c.]

Nath^l Shaw Jun^r

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

2. Thomas and Isaac Wharton, merchants of Philadelphia.

“A FULL VINDICATION OF THE MEASURES OF THE CONGRESS, ETC.” BY
ALEXANDER HAMILTON ¹

[Extract]

New-York [December 15] 1774

The only distinction between freedom and slavery consists in this: In the former state, a man is governed by the laws to which he has given his consent, either in person, or by his representative: In the latter, he is governed by the

will of another. In the one case his life and property are his own, in the other, they depend upon the pleasure of a master. It is easy to discern which of these two states is preferable. No man in his senses can hesitate in choosing to be free, rather than a slave.

That Americans are intitled to freedom, is incontestible upon every rational principle. . . .

It is no easy matter to make any tolerably exact estimate of the advantages that accrue to Great-Britain, Ireland and the West-Indies from their commercial intercourse with the colonies, nor indeed is it necessary. Every man, the least acquainted with the state and extent of our trade, must be convinced, it is the source of immense revenues to the parent state, and gives employment and bread to a vast number of his Majesty's subjects. It is impossible but that a suspension of it for any time, must introduce beggary and wretchedness in an eminent degree, both in England and Ireland; and as to the West-India plantations, they could not possibly subsist without us. I am the more confident of this, because I have a pretty general acquaintance with their circumstances and dependencies. . . .

1. Harold C. Syrett, ed., *The Papers of Alexander Hamilton* (New York and London 1961), Vol. I, 45–78. Hereafter cited as Syrett, ed., *Hamilton Papers*.

16 Dec.

GOVERNOR JOHN WENTWORTH, PORTSMOUTH, N.H., TO
GOVERNOR THOMAS GAGE, DECEMBER 16, 1774¹

[Extract]

On Wednesday last [December 14] after 12 o'clock, an insurrection suddenly took place in town and immediately proceeded to his Majesty's castle, attacked, overpowered, wounded and confined the Captain, and thence took away all the King's powder. Yesterday numbers more assembled, and last night brought off many cannon, &c, and about sixty muskets. This day the town is full of armed men, who refuse to disperse, but appear determined to complete the dismantling the fortress entirely. Hitherto the people abstained from private or personal injuries; but how long they will be so prevailed on, it is impossible to say. I most sincerely lament the present distractions which seem to have burst forth by means of a letter from William Cooper to Samuel Cutts, delivered here on Tuesday last P.M., by Paul Revere. I have not time to add further on this melancholey subject.

P.S. The populace threaten to abuse Colonel Fenton, because he has to them declared the folly of their conduct, and that he will do his duty as a justice in executing the laws. They will never prevail on him to retract, if all the men in the Province attack him. If I had had two hundred such men, the castle and all therein would yet have been safe. At this moment the heavy cannon are not carried off, but how soon they may be, I cannot say.

1. Nathaniel Bouton, ed., *Provincial Papers, Documents and Records Relating to the Province of New Hampshire From 1764 to 1776*, (Nashua, 1873), VII, 422. Hereafter cited as Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE,
DATED DECEMBER 16 [1774]”¹

We have been in confusion here for two days, on account of an express from Boston, informing that two Regiments were coming to take possession of our Fort; by beat of drum, two hundred men immediately assembled and went to the Castle, in two gondolas, who on their way were joined by one hundred and fifty more, and demanded the surrender of the Fort, which Captain [John] Cochran refused, and fired three Guns, but no lives were lost; upon which they immediately scaled the walls, disarmed the Captain and his men, took possession of ninety-seven barrels of Powder, put it on board the Gondolas, brought it up to Town, and went off with it some distance into the Country. Yesterday the town was full of men from the country who marched in in form, chose a Committee to wait on the Governor, who assured them he knew of no such designs as sending Troops, Ships, &c. This morning I hear there is a thousand or fifteen hundred men on their march to Town. The Governor and Council sat yesterday on the affair, and are now meeting again. The men who came down are those of the best property and note in the Province.

1. *New York Journal*, December 29, 1774.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

[*Preston*, Boston] Thursday [*sic*! Friday]

16th [December, 1774] 10 o’Clock in the Morning

I have this moment received by Express a Letter from Captain [James] Wallace of his Majesty’s Ship *Rose*, at Rhode Island, a Copy of which, and of the Minutes of their General Assembly mentioned therein with the *Newport Mercury*, I transmit for your Information;² At present it appears to me of infinite consequence to guard the passages by Sea to the Town of Providence, where the Inhabitants of the Colony of Rhode Island, by legislative Authority, are forming their public Magazine of Arms and Ammunition. If upon further considering the subject I shall think it expedient for the Kings Service to do so, I must order two or three Schooners more to be taken up, which shall be hired or purchased as they can be got, and upon the best and cheapest Terms for the Crown, which I trust will meet their Lordships approbation.

This Letter goes in the *Charming Nancy* Transport whom the General has ordered to England on his Majesty’s Service, and whom at my request his Excellency detained several days; I flattered myself by that means with having the pleasure to acquaint you with the arrival of the *Somerset*. I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves’s Conduct, I, 36, 37, MassHS Transcript. This is the conclusion of the letter begun on December 15, 1774.

2. The enclosure was Wallace’s letter of December 12, 1774.



(Top) Colonial Schooner Halifax. (Bottom) Swivel guns (at the left, a dummy or "Quaker").

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 16th [December, 1774]

Late this Evening by Express the Admiral received a Letter from Governor [John] Wentworth of New Hampshire residing at Portsmouth, that near Four hundred people had forcibly taken possession of his Majesty's Fort William and Mary and by Violence carried away upwards of 100 Barrels of Gunpowder, that he was apprehensive of their committing farther Outrage, and desired immediate Assistance. Hereupon two ships were dispatched with the utmost expedition.²

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 38, 39, MassHS Transcript.

2. H.M.S. *Canceaux* and H.M.S. *Scarborough*.*Massachusetts Spy*, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1774

Boston

Since our last arrived the *Boyne* man of war, of 70 guns, from England.

The marines, 500 in number, who arrived in the *Asia* man of war, from England, are to land and go into barracks, in this town, now preparing for their reception.

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1774

New-London, Dec. 16.

Last friday [December 9] all the cannon belonging to Fort George at Newport, except 4, were carried to Providence, with the shot, &c. from whence they may be easily conveyed into any part of the country, to meet the Indians and Canadians, with which the Colonies are threatened: - And on tuesday last [December 13] the cannon belonging to the battery in this town, were removed into the country, for the same purpose.

17 Dec.

"LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE TO A GENTLEMAN IN
NEW YORK" ¹

[Extract]

Portsmouth, N.H. December 17, 1774

On Wednesday last [December 14] a Drum and fife [pervaded] the streets of Portsmouth, accompanied by several Committee-men, and the Sons of Liberty, publicly avowing their intention of taking possession of Fort William and Mary, which was garrisoned by six invalids. After a great number of people had collected together, they embarked on board scows, boats, &c. entered the Fort, seized the Gunpowder, fired off the Guns, and carried the Powder up to Exeter, a Town fifteen miles distant. The quantity was about two hundred to two hundred and twenty barrels; the day after, while the Governor and Council were assembled in the Council Chamber, between two and three hundred persons came from Durham, and the adjoining Towns, headed by Major [John] Sullivan, one of the Delegates to the Congress; they drew up before the Council Chamber, and demanded an answer to the following question: Whether there were any ships or troops expected here, or if the Governour had wrote for any? They were answered that his Excellency knew of no forces coming hither, and that none had been sent for; upon which they returned to the Taverns, and about ten or eleven o'clock at night,

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 423.

Decem: 1774 Moor'd off the Fort, Piscataqua River
Saturday 17 at 1 AM weighed [in Boston Harbor] and came to Sail, at ½ past
3 Abreast of Boston light, at Noon Thatchers Isld S S W 3 Leags
Pigeon Hill S W b W 4 Leagues
P M ½ pt 3 Isle of Shoals NE b N, at 4 do Isle E N E, at 8 S.E.
Calm Piscataqua light bearg N b W, at 9 a light breeze Sprung
up at Wt at 11 Anchd within the Fort of Piscataqua.

- The committee finding upon enquiry that one of the slaves imported by Hereld Blackmore, was ordered after the publication of the resolves of the provincial convention of this province, and in contradiction thereto, and that he had at that time an opportunity to contradict the orders he had given for the other

slaves, and he now confessing that he sent a copy of the provincial resolves to Granada: It is the opinion of the committee that the said slaves be re-shipped. And the committee do resolve that all slaves, imported since the first day of this instant, or which may be imported, shall be re-shipped from this province. Upon a suggestion to the committee that Mr. Arthur Mabson hath imported in his schooner from the West Indies, some slaves which are now at his plantation near this town: It is ordered that the sense of this committee relative thereto be made known to Mr. Mabson, and that Mr. [Archibald] Maclain write to him for that purpose, which he hath done as follows to wit:

Sir:

Wilmington, 17th Dec. 1774

The committee for the town, chosen to observe the conduct of all persons touching the association of the General Congress, have resolved that all slaves imported into this river since the first day of December, instant, shall be re-shipped to the place from whence they came as soon as possible, and being informed that you have, contrary to the express letter of the said association, imported slaves from the West Indies, which you have now at your plantation, it is expected that you will give a particular account of the number thereof, and take such steps as may satisfy the committee that you intend, on your part, to adhere strictly to the regulations laid down by your representatives. I am Sir [&c]

Archibald M'Lain

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, IX, 1098, 1099.

HENRY LAURENS TO WILLIAM MANNING, LONDON ¹

[Extract]

Charles Town So Carolina 17th Decemr 1774.

p *Swallow Packet*

. . . the Six days past Since my arrival here have been almost wholly taken up in receiving the kind compliments of my friends & in return paying my respects to them & before this Ceremony is quite over I have a Call to the Country Some 30 Miles distance, where my favorite Overseer lies dangerously Ill, & of course the Contents of the Barn in danger of delapidations from the ungoverned Gentry around him – you will not wonder then that I Say very little on the State of Trade or politics I have penetrated into neither – in general I learn that upwards of half a Million pounds weight of Indigo has already been exported of the late or present Crop that more than the Same quantity remains unshipped – that the 13 United Colonies are determined to adhere Steadily to their late association & Resolutions in opposition to the measures adopted for enslaving us, & in this Colony particularly there appears a Spirit & firmness beyond expectation – If Administration on your Side Should, unhappily for both, continue firm in persecuting us, we Shall be a Set of ragged patriots before the expiration of '75 an assurance that we suffer for righteousness Sake will conduct us through the trial with patience & our cheerfulness, & in '76 we shall begin to deck our Selves in Woolen Cotton Linen & Silk of our own manufacture

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–1775, SCHS.



"A Society of Patriotic Ladies at Edenton in North Carolina", 1775.

HENRY LAURENS TO THOMAS GREEN, BIRMINGHAM ¹p *Swallow* Packet

Charles Town. 17th Decemr 1774.

Sir After I had left you in Birmingham in October last I had reason to apprehend the people of this as well as of 12 other Colonies on this Continent would voluntarily debar themselves of the benefit of Importing Goods from Great Britain until those oppressive Acts of Parliament which were passed by the late House Should be repealed & therefore I delayed any directions for the investiture of my little Balance in your hands – upon my arrival here the 11th Inst my apprehensions were confirmed by the united Resolutions of the Inhabitants of these Colonies which you have Seen before this day together with our petition to the King and Address to the good people of Great Britain ² in these circumstances tis neither in my power nor inclination to import any kind of Goods from England & I am much afraid that by the obstinacy of those who are Enemies to both parties we Shall remain in this State for Months perhaps Years for there appears to be determination here to bear all that the hand of power can inflict & to Suffer every temporary Evil in preference to a lame Surrender of our Liberties – I must therefore request the favour of you to remit the Balance of my Account which I believe is about £58.2/ to William Manning Esqr of St Marys Axe London & when there is an opening for a correspondence you shall hear further from [&c.]

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–1775, SCHS.

2. The actions of the First Continental Congress at Philadelphia.

19 Dec.

“REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough*, IN PISCATAQUA RIVER” ¹

Decr 1774 At 2 A M weigh'd [from Nantasket Road] & made Sail, Lost the
Monday 19th Logg & 3 Lines, Pidgeon Hill W b S 2 Leags at 11 Came too at
Newcastle in Piscataqua River with the Best Bower in 3 fm Water
& veered to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable, found here His Majesty's Armed Ship
Canceaux. steadied with the Kedge Anchor & Hawser the Light
house Bore S E b S & Kittery Meeting house N b W.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 19th [December, 1774]

The *Gaspee* Brig came in from a Cruize and Sailed again the next day with Orders to be stationed from Cape Elizabeth to Manahigan [Monhegan] Islands, untill the beginning of April, and then to go to Halifax, clean and follow such Directions as she should receive from the Commanding Officer at that port.

1. Grave's Conduct, 39, 40, Mass HIS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 19 decem 1774

I had the Honor of your Excellency's letter of yesterday Morning the Supernumerary Marines serving in His Majesty's Squadron under my Command may be landed as soon as their Quarters are ready,² that they may be disciplined in a manner to enable them to act on shore with the rest of His Majestys Troops.

When Major [John] Pitcairne reports to me that Quarters are in all respects ready for the reception of the Marines, I will order them to be landed, And agreeable to my directions from My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, will order them to be victualed from the Ships of the Squadron untill they are sent to such a distance as not to be able to receive Subsistence from them. I am Sir with great regard Your Excellency's [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. "Boston, Dec. 16 [1774]. The marines, 500 in number, who arrived in the *Asia* man of war, from England, are to land go into barracks, in the town, now preparing for their reception," *Connecticut Courant*, Hartford, December 19, 1774.VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 19th December 1774

I have this moment heard that a Vessel Sails Tomorrow Morning from Salem to England, and I embrace the Opportunity to acquaint you that his Majesty's Ship *Somerset* arrived here yesterday morning and this day is come up to Boston, without any Accident having happened. I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Grave's Conduct, I, 39, MassHS Transcript.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 19th [December, 1774]

Frost broke up, rained most of the day. The *Somerset* came into the Harbour, all well, as likewise the *Swan*, Sloop of War, Cn. Ayscough from New York; the Yankys exceedingly disappointed at seeing the *Somerset*, as they were in hopes she was lost. The Harbour now cuts a formidable figure, having four Sail of the Line, besides Frigates and Sloops and a great number of Transports. Upon the News yesterday from Portsmouth, a Schooner was immediately dispatched there, and to day the *Scarborough* sail'd for there too. We shall see now whether the Genl. will do anything or not.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 12.

New York Gazette, MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1774

New York, December 19.

Some Ships fitting out at the Port of Liverpool about 7 Weeks since, could not have Permission to take on board either Gunpowder, or any Kind of Guns, Swords, &c.

By a Gentleman who left Quebec about 20 Days ago, we learn, That the Reports we have had here of the Canadians and Indians being to be raised and sent to act against the People of Boston, &c. is entirely groundless; and that should a Thing of that Nature be proposed to the French 'twould be rejected with Disdain.

DEPOSITION OF JOHN NIXON REGARDING MERCHANT SHIP *Black Prince* ¹

John Nixon of maketh Oath that the Ship called the *Black Prince* of Philadelphia whereof John Barry is at present Master being a square sterned Vessel of the Burthen of two hundred Tons or thereabouts was built in Philadelphia this present Year One thousand seven hundred & seventy four and that Thomas Willing Robt Morris Thos Morris & John Wharton of Philadelphia Merchants together with this Deponent are at present Owners thereof

Dated at the Custom House Philadelphia, the nineteenth day of December 1774 –

John Nixon

1. HSP. Purchased by Congress in November 1775, the *Black Prince* was renamed *Alfred* and became the first ship in the Continental Navy.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Baltimore Committee held at Mr Grants December 19th, 1774–

On motion, *Resolved*, that it be recommended to the retailers of British Salt, not to sell the same for more than Three Shillings p Bushel Cash.

On motion, *Resolved*, that where British Salt has or shall be imported into Baltimore Port since the 1st Day of December, it shall be left in the option of the owner or owners of said Salt either to allow 1 d. p bushel on the quantity contained in the Invoice, or 2 d. p bushel on what may be Sold; for the relief of the suffering Poor in Boston; or that the Committee; in case the owners refuse both these alternatives, and do not choose to Store the Salt, shall sell the same in Lots of 500 Bushels; and the proffits, after paying first cost & charges to be applied as above; and in case the Salt is sold, Ten pence per bushel shall be allowed for Freight.

The Meeting adjourned to 3 OClock this Afternoon.

The Committee met according to adjournment.

On motion the question was put whether Coal & Brick ought to be considered as a Merchandize, and subject to be disposed of as directed by the 10th. Article of the Continental association, or not. determined in the negative.

The question being put whether this Committee shall make an offer of such Goods as may be imported after the first Day of December to the owners, on their paying a certain Commission to the poor of Boston, or adopt any Measure similar thereto without selling them at public Vendue – carried in the Negative.

The question was then put whether one general rule be observed in setting up all those Goods directed to be sold by this Committee at Vendue, or not: determined in the Negative.

Resolved that the owners of all Goods directed to be sold by the Committee do produce their original Invoices, or authentic Copies therefrom, to the Gentlemen who are appointed to sell the same.

1. Balt. Com., LC.

20 Dec.

JOHN WENTWORTH, GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO
VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Portsmo, – New hampshire 20th, Decr 1774

Sir I received the Honour of your Letter of the 17th instant by Captain [Andrew] Barkley, who arrived in this Harbour yesterday with the *Scarborough*, as did Lieut [Henry] Mowat with the *Canceaux* on saturday Night last [December 17].

Permit me to return my most hearty thanks to You, Sir, for your great Readiness in ordering such timely Assistance to support his Majesty's Service here, which I trust will prevent the too much deluded & misled People in these Parts from persevering in the Violences, which some inconsiderate Persons among Us have very apparently, at first, been hurried by Surprise to commit, through the Instigation of some of the factious Leaders in Boston.

The next Day after the Gunpowder was carried off great numbers, being invited the preceeding Evening, came to Town from the Country to take away the Cannon also; – All Means in my Power were exerted to prevent it, and to make them disperse, but my Efforts proved ineffectual – For a Party of about 100 of them went to the Castle between 11 & 12 oClock at Night accompanied by Mr [John] Sullivan, One of the Newhampshire Delegates to the late [Continental] Congress, and brought from thence Sixteen Pieces of Cannon, about Sixty Musquets and other Military Stores to the Out-Borders of the Town the next Morning;

Mr [Nathaniel] Folsom the other Delegate came to Town that Morning with a great Number of Armed Men, who remained in Town to guard the Cannon till the Flow of the Tide in the Evening, When the Cannon were sent in Gundolas up the River into the Country, and the People dispersed without doing any person[al] Injury to any Body.

Threats were made to take away or destroy the remaining Cannon (about twenty pieces) and to demolish the Fort entirely, but the Ships of War arrived in Time to prevent their accomplishing it.

I am much obliged to You, Sir, for your Wishes for a Reestablishment of good Order in this Province; – the Administration of Justice in Cases merely respecting the Inhabitants themselves has not yet been much interrupted, but in all Matters which may affect or contravene the present general system of American Opposition the springs of Government are relaxed, and I cannot expect to see them recover their free operative Force untill some Decision shall be had.

I am with great Respect & Esteem Sir [&c.]

J. Wentworth

1. PF O, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Scarbroh at Newcastle in Piscataqua River

December 20th 1774

I got without the Lighthouse with his Majs Ship under my Command a Sunday [December 18] about Noon, the Wind at West North West, in the Afternoon the Wind veering to the Eastward and looking dirty, I put back and Anchor'd in Nantasket Road, at 3 the next Morning the Wind got round to So by East, I got under sail and at Eleven the same Morning Anchord here, where I found the *Canceaux* got in here the Night after She left Boston, but not soon enough to prevent the People of this Province from carrying off 18 Guns of different Sizes from Castle William and Mary, and they intended to carry off the remainder which amounted to about 53, if the *Scarborough* and *Canceaux* had not arriv'd here; They behaved in the most outrageous manner in hauling down the King's Colours with three Cheers, treating the Commanding Officer of the Fort with the greatest Insolence, they snap't a Pistol in the face of a poor old Invalid who went to defend the King's Colours, but that not going off they knock'd him down with it; The *Scarbroh* and *Canceaux* are at Anchor close to the Castle. Upon my Arrival I waited on Governor [John] Wentworth and delivered your Pacquet, he intends being On board the *Scarbroh* tomorrow if its moderate to consult which is the best Method to take to secure the Guns that are left, and the rest of the King's Stores that are in the Castle (which at present is in a very defenceless State) but You may be assured they will not attempt it while any of the King's Ships are here, the Governor acquaints Me he imagines they have not carried any of the Guns up in the Country as yet, if they have not, I am in great hopes I shall be able to recover them again; We have sent People out to find where they are lodg'd, there are two or three Batteries on the different Islands in the Harbour, the Governor has apply'd to Me to assist in getting the Guns removed to the Castle which I shall do as soon as the Weather is moderate, and You may depend I shall give every assistance in my power for his Majs service whenever the Governor or Civil Magistrates apply to me for that purpose; If any event of consequence should happen I shall send You express, as writing by Post, Govr Wentworth acquaints me is not safe at present.

I am Sir [&c.]

Andrew Barkley

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

Essex Gazette, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1774

Salem, Dec. 20.

We hear that the Number of Barrels of Gun-Powder taken Care of by the good People of New-Hampshire, in their late Expedition to Fort William & Mary, situated about 3 Miles below Portsmouth, amounted to 106; together with a considerable Number of Cannon, all the Shot, Small Arms, &c.

21 Dec.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

Boston December 21st 1774

As the Supernumerary Marines will be disembarked in a few Days, I take the Liberty to mention the Proprietary of putting them whilst on shore on the same Footing with the rest of the Soldiers both as to their Pay and Provisions. As they are all employed in the same Service, if some are treated differently from others, it may Occasion Grumbling and discontent, which must be very prejudicial to the Service, and which I wish to prevent. If you are of this Sentiment I will Order the Provisions and Money Contractors to make Arrangements accordingly.

I have the honor to be with great regard Sir &c

1. Gage Papers, CL.

22 Dec.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Preston at Boston 22d decem 1774

I have the honor to signify my consent to your Excellency's requisition that the Supernumerary Marines to be landed from His Majestys Squadron under my Command, may, while they are on shore, be put on the same footing with the rest of the Soldiers as to their Pay and Provisions being satisfied for the reasons mentioned in your Excellency's letter of yesterday and from Major [John] Pitcairns representation on the Subject that His Majestys Service would suffer greatly by any other Arrangement. I am Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

1. Gage Papers, CL.

Massachusetts Spy, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1774

Boston, December 22 [1774].

Friday evening [December 16] sailed for Portsmouth, New-Hampshire, his Majesty's ship *Canceaux*, Lieut. [Henry] Mowatt, commander . . .

And, on Saturday evening sailed for the same place his Majesty's ship *Scarborough*, Captain [Andrew] Barclay.

Sunday arrived here his Majesty's ship *Somerset*, of 64 guns, Captain [Edward] Le Cras, commander, from England.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 22d. [December, 1774]

Snow all day. The Detachment not yet sailed; we hear it is to go to Rhode Island to bring away a quantity of Powder from a Vessel which has been drove in there, and which they are afraid to trust without a Guard.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 13.

23 Dec.

"A LOVER OF ORDER" TO THE PRINTER OF THE *New Hampshire Gazette* ¹

Mr. Printer,

Portsmouth, December 23 [1774]

As the Affair of Removing the POWDER and some GUNS from the FORT, hath been a Matter of some speculation, I was determined to enquire and judge for myself; and find upon critical Examination, that the People of the Province of New-Hampshire are well known to have supported the Character of loyal Subjects of his MAJESTY, and have been distinguished for their Obedience to all Subordinate officers, without carefully attending to the present popular Patriotism of this Country. So far from pushing themselves into the Front in the present unhappy Disputes, they have been blamed for falling too far in the Rear. — But what will not the great Law of Nature, that Law of self preservation, the Love of Life, and it's dear Connections, at length effect? Alarmed with the Tendency of the Quebec Act, with Accounts that the Canadians and Indians (confirmed by some late Depredations committed by the latter upon the Frontiers of a neighbouring Government) were to be call'd forth to enforce the late Acts of Parliament, so disagreeable to all the Colonies, long inured to defend themselves in the wide extended Frontiers of this Province, by their own Valour, against the restless and cruel Savages of the Wilderness without any other Aid, and while destitute of Arms necessary for such defence, finding that his MAJESTY IN COUNCIL, not knowing their peculiar defenceless State, had been pleased to prohibit the Exportation of Powder, Arms and other warlike Stores to the Colonies without special Licence.—Some of the good People of this Province, in the wonted honesty and Simplicity of their Hearts, imagined that nobody would have just Reason to complain of their too great Forwardness, if they seasonably removed some of the Warlike Stores from the Fort nearer to their Frontiers, when the Fears of the Inhabitants were most excited and where they had too great Reasons to think such Stores would be soon wanted. Which they accordingly effected, without any great Tumult or Opposition; as it was not suspected that they had any disloyal or bad intentions. I give this simple Narrative of this Transaction, to prevent any Colouring or Exaggerations therein that may be made by the Foes of America.

A LOVER OF ORDER

1. *New Hampshire Gazette*, December 23, 1774.

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1774

Boston

Saturday last the *Boyne* man of war of 64 guns, and *Asia*, of 60, lately mentioned to have arrived from England, came up into this harbour, and are at anchor within musket shot of the town.

24 Dec.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1774

Providence, December 24.

Tuesday Se'nnight all the Cannon belonging to the Battery at New London were removed into the Country.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE DISTRICT OF BLADENSBURG, MARYLAND ¹

Prince George's County, December 24, 1774

The ship *Houston* Capt. Robert M'Lish, having arrived in this province since the first instant, with the following packages and parcels of goods, viz.

2 bales of osnabrig	1 box of felt hats
1 bale of Irish sheeting	10 boxes of candles
2 trunks of Irish linen	4 boxes of soap
2 casks of snuff	12 casks of red and white port wines,
2 casks of shoes	containing 72 dozen.

The property of Mr. James Hoggan, merchant in Bladensburgg and Mr. Hoggan requested the said goods should be sold, after public notice being given were sold under the direction of the committee, according to the tenth article of association of the continental congress.

The prime cost of the above goods	sterling
	446. 10. . 8
sold for	448. . 6. . 8
Profit for Boston	£ 1. 16. . 0

Thomas Williams, clerk committee

1. *Maryland Gazette*, Annapolis, January 5, 1775.

26 Dec.

PROVINCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE ¹

A Proclamation by the Governor

Whereas several Bodies of Men did, in the day time of the 14th and in the Night of the 15th of this Instant December, in the most daring and rebellious Manner invest, attack, and forcibly enter into his Majesty's Castle William and Mary in this Province, and overpowering and confining the Captain and Garrison, did, besides committing many treasonable Insults and Outrages, break open the Magazine of said Castle and plunder it of above One hundred Barrels of Gunpowder, with upwards of sixty Stand of small Arms, and did also force from the Ramparts of said Castle and carry off sixteen Pieces of Cannon, and other military Stores, in open Hostility and direct Oppugnation of his Majesty's Government, and in the most atrocious Contempt of his Crown and Dignity: –

I Do, by Advice and Consent of his Majesty's Council, issue this Proclamation, ordering and requiring in his Majesty's Name, all Magistrates and other officers whether Civil or Military, as they regard their Duty to the KING – and the Tenor of the Oaths they have solemnly taken and subscribed, to exert themselves in detecting and securing in some of his Majesty's Gaols in this Province the said Offenders, in Order to their being brought to condign punishment; And from motives of Duty to the King and Regard to the Welfare of the good People of this Province: I do in the most earnest and solemn Manner, exhort and enjoin you, his Majesty's liege Subjects of this Government, to beware of suffering yourselves to be seduced by false Art or Menaces of abandoned Men, to abet, protect, or screen from Justice any of the said high handed Offenders, or to withhold or secrete his Majesty's Munition forcibly taken from his Castle; but that

each and every of you will use your utmost Endeavours to detect and discover the Perpetrators of these Crimes to the civil Magistrate, and assist in securing and bringing them to Justice, and in recovering the King's Munition: This Injunction it is my bounden Duty to lay strictly upon you, and to require your Obedience thereto; as you value individually your Faith and Allegiance to his Majesty, as you wish to preserve that Reputation to the Province in general; and as you would avert the most dreadful but most certain Consequences of a contrary conduct to yourselves and Posterity.

Given in the Council Chamber in Portsmouth, the 26th Day of December, in the 15th Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Third, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, KING, Defender of the Faith &c., and in the year of our LORD CHRIST, 1774

J. Wentworth

By his Excellency's Command with advice of Council

Theodore Atkinson, Secy

GOD SAVE THE KING

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 423, 424.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

Boston December 26th 1774

. . . we have received Accounts of an Attack made by a Number of People in New-Hampshire on His Majesty's Fort William and Mary in Piscataqua Harbour. There has been different Reports concerning this Transaction, but I transmit your Lordship Copys and Extracts of Letters that I have received from Governor [John] Wentworth upon the Subject. A Frigate and Sloop of War are now in that Harbour, and we have received no Accounts of farther Disturbances since they arrived.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/92, LC Transcript.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1774

Newport, December 26.

The week before last Thomas Gilbert, George Chace, Jaheel Hathway, Abiel Terry, Benjamin Grinnell, and two of Col. Hathway's sons, having proved themselves great enemies to their country, fled from Freetown to Boston, to take shelter under the wing of Gen. [Thomas] Gage. We hear one of the above Tories hung up his coat and shot one or two bullets through the skirts, then put it on to wear to Boston, pretending he had been shot at by some of the people.

29 Dec.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 29th [December, 1774]

The *Lively* proceeded to Salem Road to prevent smuggling the Importation of Arms Ammunition &c

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 40, MassHS Transcript.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO P. VANDERVOORT & CO., NEW YORK MERCHANTS ¹

N Lond Dec. 29, 1774

Gent.

Yours 19th Ins is now before me & am sorry to find that the underwriters on the *Hawk* ² have not paid you for I Really want the Money. I wrote you by Capt. [Edward] Chappell & Rogers, hope they have both arrived & that you will be able to send me the money for the Draft on Mess [Thomas & Isaac] Wharton, also Negotiate £800 Currency to be pd in Boston. I expect [Eleazer] Pomeroy in a few days with a Load of Sugar from Guadalupe with sum Coffee which shall send down soon as it arrives unless you find the risque too great. Pomeroy writes me of the 18th Nov that the Sloop *Sally*, Ed. Hulling Master was at the Mole Grand hear in Guadalupe & was to take in Sugars and Sail in Twelve days for this Port. I would have you git three hundred pounds Insurance on the Vessell & £700 on the Cargo on Accot of N. Shaw Junr & Co. The Sloop was waiting for the Guardacostas to be out of the way to have an Oppory to take in Sugars so that it is uncertain whether Pomeroy will be able to Ship any Goods or that the Vessell will Sail for N.L. He writes me to have the Insurance made Conditionally, that if she does not Sail to pay nothing but the Charges, which is customery. Inclos'd is John Myers Rect for £63 in part pay for my Note wich is on 6 pr Ct Interest, as it was given in this Colony, but if he insists on 7 to pay him.

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

2. The *Hawk* apparently was wrecked on a return voyage from Philadelphia in 1774.

"A LIST OF SHIPS AND VESSELS WHICH HAVE ENTERED INWARDS IN THE PORT OF ANNAPOLIS IN MARYLAND" ¹

1774

- Decmr 29 Ship *Emperor of Germany*, John Richards, Master, 160 tons, 9 men, from Bristol
European Goods pr 4 Cockets, ² 4786 Bushels of Salt
- 29 Ship *Richmond*, Thomas Hutchinson, Master, 70 tons, 8 men, from Liverpool
European Goods pr 2 Cockets 5520 Bushels of Salt.

1. Port of Entry Books, 1745–1775, MdHS. For detailed explanation see December 1, 1774, and for complete list of entries from Europe and West Indies, see Appendix A.

2. Cocket is a custom house certificate indicating that duty was paid.

30 Dec.

GOVERNOR JOHN WENTWORTH TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Portsmouth 30th Decr 1774

Sir, Since I had the honor to write you of the [20th] instant, the weather has continued excessively severe, I have however conferred twice with Captain [Andrew] Barkley and Lieutt [Henry] Mowat of His Majesty's Ships *Scarborough* & *Canceaux* upon the best means of securing the King's service & Servants in this

Town, from any sudden attack, which may be too reasonably apprehended from the present disposition of the many People in the Country, Who, having already broken into outrage, in the late assaults upon the Castle are under less restraint, & more implicitly devoted to the will and orders of the faction in Boston. Reprisals having been recommended by the Continental Congress,² I am convinced a Plan has been concerted to that purpose, which rests only untill any movement on the part of Government is made in Boston, or any malignant view of opposition, shall spring their latent designs into action. In which case, I apprehend, the two Ships already here, would be insufficient for protection, from the extent and form of this River; but that if one Sloop of War was added, with Fifty additional Marines, The whole Service would be exceedingly advanced, and with eminent usefulness. Without which aid, or at least the Marines, it is almost positively certain, that only the Fort Wm & Mary can be safely covered, and that all the Town will be exceedingly exposed. Those Ships may be so disposed in good Water, out of the Tide and Ice, and distant from Wharves, where they might come to sail with any Wind from N.West to S.West, and be at Sea in forty minutes, with a moderate breeze.

I cannot conclude without expressing my Sensibility of Captain Barkley's and Mr Mowat's constant alacrity & readiness in the most obliging manner to co-operate with me in the King's service, which yields me the amplest assurance, that I shall receive Evry assistance practicable, from the Ships under their Command.

I have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect and Regard, Sir [&c.]

J Wentworth

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

2. A resolution adopted by the First Continental Congress on October 21, 1774, "That the seizing, or attempting to seize any Person in order to transport such Person beyond the Sea for Trial of offences committed within the Body of a Country in America, being against Law, will justify, and ought to meet with Resistance and Reprisal," is apparently the basis for Wentworth's statement that the Continental Congress had recommended reprisals.

THOMAS CUSHING TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ¹

[First page missing]

[Boston, December 30, 1774] ²

I have lately been favoured with a Copy of Lord Dartmouth's circular Letter to the Governors of the respective Colonies upon this Continent, wherein he Informs them, that His Majesty has thought fit, by his order in Council of the 19th October 1774, to prohibit the exportation from Great Britain of Gunpowder or any sort of Arms or Ammunition & that it is his Majesty's Command that they take the most Effectual Measures for arresting, detaining and securing any Gunpowder or any sort of Arms or Ammunition, which may be Attempted to be imported into the Provinces under their Government, unless the master of the Ship, having such Military Stores on board, shall produce a licence from his Majesty or the Privy Council, for the exportation of the same from some of the Ports of Great Britain: The Colonies apprehend this Political Manoeuvre of the Ministry

forbodes the most rigorous exertions of Martial Force, They are therefore adopting the most Effectual Methods to defend themselves against any Hostile Invasions of the Enemies to America – I am informed that the People of Rhode Island having in consequence of this Intelligence been alarmed with the same Apprehensions, have removed the Powder Guns, Cannon & other Military Stores from the Fort at the Enstrance of their Harbor into the County where they are safely Lodged and That the People at Portsmouth in New hampshire have done the like by their Cannon & other Military Stores at the Fort at New castle at the entrance of their Harbour

1. Franklin Papers, LVIII, 107, APS.

2. The date is approximated. On December 30, 1774, Cushing wrote to Josiah Quincy, Jr., who, like Franklin, was in London. The Quincy letter conveyed the same account of the reaction in Rhode Island and New Hampshire to the Order in Council. Cushing (1725–1788) had been a member of the First Continental Congress.

ROBERT EDEN, GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND, TO WILLIAM EDEN, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE ¹

[Extract]

Annapolis 30th Decr 1774.

This Province has been tolerably quiet since I arrived—Before that, they had in one or two Instances been second (I think) in Violent Measures to Boston—The Spirit of [Res]istence against the Tea Act or any Mode of internal Taxation is as strong & universal here as ever. I firmly believe that they will undergo any Hardships sooner than acknowledge a Right in the British Parlt. in that Particular, & will persevere in their Non Importation & Non-Exportation Experiments in spite of every Inconvenience that they must consequently be exposed to, & the total Ruin of their Trade.

1. Eden Transcripts, Fisher Collection, MdHS.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA ¹

[Wilmington] Dec. 30th, 1774.

Alexander Hostler, & Co., produced invoices of goods amounting . . . in the whole nineteen hundred and fifty-one pounds, nineteen shillings seven and three quarter pence, imported in the *Thetis* from Glasgow, which they delivered into the hands of the committee and requested that the same might be sold pursuant to the resolves of the general Congress.

Hogg and Campbell, produced invoices of one hundred and thirty tons of salt, imported in the *North Star*, Capt. Saunderson, from Lymington, amounting to two hundred and twenty-five pounds, thirteen shillings and five pence sterling, which he delivered and requested to be sold &c.

Abram Tunter produced invoices of anchors, cables, canvass, rigging, cabin furniture and other articles, imported for a new vessel now on the stocks in this river, amounting to five hundred and sixty-one pounds, seventeen shillings three and a quarter pence sterling, delivered the same, and requested that they be sold &c.

Hanna, M'Clintock, & Co., produced invoices of goods imported in the *Thetis* from Glasgow, amounting to two thousand six hundred and seventy-one pounds, fourteen shillings eleven and a half pence sterling, delivered the same to the committee, and requested to have them sold &c.

John Cruden & Co., produced invoice of two bales of Osnaburgs, imported in the *Thetis* from Glasgow amounting to fifty-two pounds fifteen shillings sterling, which they delivered to the committee, and requested to have them sold, &c.

Resolved, that all the above mentioned goods be sold to-morrow, the 31st inst.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, IX, 1103.

31 Dec.

"REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER"

Decr 1774 At Noon came on board His Excellency Governour [John] Went
Saturny 31 worth Saluted him with 17 Guns. at 4 P M His Excellency Lef
the Ship Saluted him with 17 Guns.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA¹

[Wilmington] Saturday, Dec. 31st, 1774.

The goods of Alexander Hostler & Co.; Hogg and Campbell, Abraham Hunter, Hanna, M'Clintock, & Co., and John Cruden & Co. were exposed to sale according to notice, and sold as follows:

	£	s.	d.
130 tons of salt, imported by Hogg & Campbell, at	225	13	5
Anchors, canvass, cables & by Abram Hunter	561	0	0
Sundry goods in 4 invoices by Alex. Hostler, & Co.	1952	8	8
2 bales of Osnaburgs, by J. Cruden, & Co.	53	0	0
Sundry goods by H. M'Clintock, & Co.	2672	0	0

Invoices of goods imported by Thomas Orr, amounting to seven hundred and sixty-three pounds, twelve shillings and two pence and twenty-two pounds, nineteen shillings and seven pence sterling, were produced and the said goods delivered, and requesting that they be sold, &c.²

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, IX, 1104.

2. *Ibid.*, 1107. Orr's good were sold on January 3, 1775 for £787 sterling.

1 Jan. 1775 (Sunday)

DISPOSITION OF THE SQUADRON UNDER VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

List of the North American Squadron on the 1st of January 1775

Ships &c	Guns	Men	Commanders	Station
			V. Adml Graves	
<i>Preston</i>	50	300	Capt Jno Robinson	In Boston harbour —disabled by running on the rocks the 10th Decr —just purchased intend- ed for an Armed Schooner
<i>Somerset</i>	68	520	Edwd LeCras	
<i>Boyne</i>	70	520	Brodk Hartwell	
<i>Asia</i>	64	480	Geo Vanderput	
<i>Mercury</i>	20	130	Jno Macartney	
<i>Glasgow</i>	20	130	Wm Maltby	
<i>Diana</i> Schr	6	30	Lt Thos Graves	
<i>Rose</i>	20	130	Capt Jas Wallace	} at Rhode Island
<i>Swan</i> Sloop	16	100	Jas Ayscough	
<i>Hope</i> Schr	6	30	Lt Geo Dawson	
<i>Kingsfisher</i> Sloop	16	100	Capt Jas Montagu	at New York
<i>Magdalen</i> Schr	6	30	Lt Henry Colins	at Philadelphia
<i>Fowey</i>	20	130	Capt Geo. Montagu	at Virginia
<i>Cruizer</i> Sloop	8	60	Tyrn Howe	at North Carolina
<i>Tamer</i> Sloop	14	100	Edwd Thorn- borough	at South Carolina
<i>Savage</i> Sloop	8	60	Edwd Bromedge	} on the coast of Et Flor- ida & at the Bahama Islands
<i>St John</i> Schr	6	30	Lt Wm Grant	
<i>Lively</i>	20	130	Capt Thos Bishop	at Salem & Marblehead
<i>Scarborough</i>	20	130	Andw Barkley	} In Piscataqua river in New Hampshire Prov- ince
<i>Canceaux</i>	8	45	Lt Henry Mowat	
<i>Gaspee</i> Brig	6	30	Lt Wm Hunter	} from Casco Bay to the Entrance of the Bay of Fundy
<i>Halifax</i> Schr	6	30	Lt Josh Nunn	
<i>Diligent</i> Schr	6	30	Lt John Knight	at Windsor in the Bay of Fundy
<i>Tartar</i>	28	160	Capt Edwd Meadows	at Halifax in Nova Scotia

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 40, 41, MassHS Transcript.

2 Jan.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] Jany 2d 1775

The *Halifax* Schooner went to her Station from Manahigan Islands to Passamaquody, with Directions to carry the *Scarborough's* Sails, now repaired, to her at Piscataqua.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 41, MassHS Transcript.

Boston Evening Post, MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 1775

Boston, Jan. 2.

Last week the Marines, which lately arrived in the Men of War from England, commanded by Maj. [John] Pitcairn, were landed, and are now in Barracks at the North Part of the Town.

LIEUTENANT ROBERT BOYLE NICHOLAS, R.N. TO CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN ¹

WE the signing Officers of His Majesty's Ship the *Hind* do hereby certify that there is wanting for the Refreshment of her Company a Proportion of Fresh Beef for two Days in a Week, during her Stay in Port. Given under our Hands, and dated on board the said Ship in *Newport* this 2d Day of *January 1775*

To Mr. *Christophr Champlin* Agent to the Contractor for supplying His Majesty's Ships with Fresh Beef at *Newport*

Robt. Boyle Nicholas Lt Captain. *Absent*

Thos Mosely Master.

Danel McKendsey Boatswain.

Sir, YOU are hereby required and directed to furnish His Majesty's Ship the *Hind* under My Command, with a Proportion of Fresh Beef, two Days in a Week, during her Stay in Port, the same being actually wanted for the Refreshment of her Company. Given under my Hand, and Dated on board the said Ship in *Newport* this 2d Day of *Jany. 1775*.

Mr. *Christr Champlin* Agent to the Contractor for supplying His Majesty's Ships with Fresh Beef at *Newport*

Rob^t Boyle Nicholas Lt CAPTAIN. *Absent*

1. Champlin Papers, RIHS. This is one of a number of printed forms supplied the captains of British men-of-war to requisition provisions from the victualing agents in the various American ports. Handwritten insertions appear in italics. It is reproduced here as the earliest extant for the Revolutionary War period. There were numerous variations, and in many cases, having exhausted their supply of forms, the captains or pursers of His Majesty's Ships made their wants known to the agents by letter. The receipt for this particular requisition (also a printed form) will be found under date of January 21, 1775.

New-York Gazette, MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 1775

New-York, January 2.

The Printer from the best Authority can assure the Public, that the late Seizure of Arms, Lead and Powder, made by the Collector of this Port, was solely for this one sufficient Reason — that there was no Cocket or Clearance for them, under any Mark or Denomination whatever.¹

1. See James Rivington's *New-York Gazetteer*, January 5, 1775.

LEVINUS CLARKSON TO DAVID VAN HORNE ¹

[Extract]

Chs Town So Carolina 2d January 1775

The Wines are Safely landed in good Order The Quality of No 3 I am Sencable is very Indifferent & doubt not in the Least it will prove Vinegar in the Course of a Hott Summer tho I shall do the Utmost to save & dispose of it at any

Rate, As to the others there is a Judgeing being so thick, I have taken your Advice to fine down 3 Pipes – Information Relative to a Plantation I shall write you fully per J Hunt in the mean time Inform you Mr Tennants Purchase of [torn].

The Determinations of Congress have Effectually Blasted my Prospects for the Insuing Year, And I am very Apprehensive the first time our Assembly meets they will Stop the Importation of Slaves for a certain time, Their Number being so great As to Caution every prudent Man not to Increase it by Purchase, If so I must lay out my Interest in the Planting way, or take up my Bead & Return home, For this Country will not do to live in for a fair Subsistance wh I am Apprehensive will be the Case the Insuing Year . . .

The things P Hows are not Landed, You Mention that Carrages might be made wt you for a Less Price than I Limited Mr Williams, pray what would there Price be, As the Carolinians Imported their Carrages before from England, Now being prevented may do to have them from you.

I have drawn on Mr John Seabring in favor of Chs McEversham At 30 Dais Sight for £420 . . 1 . . 4 York [currency] As also in favor Thos Bayeaux £41.12 York is sum amot to £461.13.4 & the Ballance wh I do Suppose will be near as much more to pay you wh please to call on him for –

Messrs. Grant & Fine Addressed their Brig *Friendship*, John Lewis Master to me to Load with Tar & Turpentine if not to be had to let him out, But Lewis being determined Not to go to Europe unless first to New York, I have come to the following Agreement – [torn] Merchant would take him up wth Liberty to Touch at New York To Load his Brig wth Rice to pay 50/ Steg p Ton to Portugal, Spain or the Island of Maderia & 55/ if She is discharge as high up the Streights as Marseilles wth Liberty to touch at York & Gibraltar for Information of Markets, Mr. Hamilton to go the Voyage wth the Cargo addressed to him $\frac{1}{3}$ of wh a Mr Dorsius is Concerned in & the other $\frac{2}{3}$ I ship on my own accot tho I shall make Messrs. Grant & Fine an Offer of my $\frac{1}{3}$ wth Customary charges, Premiums of Insurance from hence to New York & Intrest from the time of the Vessels Cargo being compleated untill they shall pay you the Amot wh I must Insist upon before she leaves New York This Offer I have made them in Consequence of the freight Back as it will be Hazardus & an offer to purchase $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Brig for £410 New York of his Safe Arrivel at New York by wh means the Vessell & Cargo would belong to Grant & Fine $\frac{1}{3}$ John Dorsius $\frac{1}{3}$ the other to myself But should Grant & Fine Not Approve of this Offer in the Sale of this Vessel We Propose to give them a fraght of the Nt Proceeds of the Homeward Cargo as may be thought Reasonable by two Gentlemen for that Purpose, Should this Proposal still not please them, Then the Vessell & Cargo to Proceed Agreeable to Bill Lading & Mr Dorsius & self order our Respective parts of the Proceeds of our Cargo in our friends hands, Further Agreed wth Capt Lewis to Victual & Water his Vessel for the whole Voyage Should the Weather on your Coast prove Boystrous then he may proceed to Gibraltar, In that case you must Indeavour to git my Bond Canceled wh you, In other Respects he can properly protest As it is his fix determination to Proceed to New York – Should Grant & Fine Agree to the first Proposal to Sel[torn] the Limited Price it will be charging proper [torn] on Eith side be paid

to the party falling short Should they not incline to sell the Brig & take up wth our Offer leaving the Homeward bound freight to be ascertained by Refference and this take $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Cargo, yould have the Same to Receive as Directed before Should Lewis not make his Appearance in New York Being Blown of[f] I shall direct Mr Hamilton to Remit my $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Cargo in good Bills to Lane Sons [torn] Tho I should give the Preference to his Arriving at New York to have the Approbation of the Owners, As the Capt Can take upon him the Voyage back as it is Illisitt, Consequently We shal be disapointed in the Prospects of the Goods we Intend to order[torn] wch are as follows, a kind of Wollin Cloth made use of by our Negroes to be had in Marseilles or they must perish. If not procurd wch will be the Case Except the Actts are Repealed, in that case Mr Hamilton will have Information at Gibraltar Many Planters would contract wth me, for thousand of yards & have declared they will Assist in the Landing of it, Ollives, Anchovies, Reasons Capers, Brandy, Fancy Silks, Umbrellows & many Articles that Hamilton knows will Answer. This Voyage must be [illegible]

By Capt Hunt I shall be able to Ascertain the Amot [torn] I have put on board of him 143 Casks prime Rice & shall complete his Cargo wth such as I have the whole Month pr Agreement to Compleat his Lading.

This morning Arrived a Brigt from Spain Address to me to be Loaded wth Rice Guaranteed to me to a Safe House whos Cargo I have to compleat in a few days Plase to send the Inclosed Letter to Henry Rilay Shoe Maker I shall either Pass my Summer in Europe or traveling the Continent Soliciting Business. Must depend on what Congress determin next Meeting

1. Levinus Clarkson Papers, 1772–1793, LC. Clarkson, from a prominent New York family, had settled as a merchant in Charleston.

3 Jan.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 3d. [January, 1775]

By an express from Captain [James] Wallace, Information coming of the *Hinds* Arrival very leaky in her Decks and Upper Works at Rhode Island, with Camp and Tent Equipage, and a Detachment of Marines for the Battalion at Boston,² the Admiral ordered the Equipage and Detachment to be taken on board the *Rose* and the *Hind* to make the best of her way to join Vice Admiral [William] Parry at the Leeward Islands according to her Orders from the Admiralty

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 41, MassHS Transcript.
2. "Yesterday Week [January 1] arrived at Rhode Island, a Ship of 20 Guns, from England, with 200 Marines on board bound for Boston," *New York Gazette*, 9 January, 1775.

4 Jan.

CADWALLADER COLDEN, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

New York 4th Janry 1775

A day or two after this order was received ² one of the Custom House officers discovered ten chests of Arms, three Boxes of Lead and one Barrell of Gun-powder on Board a Vessel bound to Rhode Island. It has been found on enquiry that

these arms were lately imported on board the ship *Lady Gage* Captn [Thomas] Mesnard and it is said, were shipped at London as Hardware; but there was no Cockett for them under any Denomination. Mr. [Andrew] Elliot secured them all, and for greater safety sent them on Board the Man of War in the Harbour where they remain

That sett of people who lye waiting for every opportunity to raise a Mob and throw the City into confusion, made an infamous attempt to frighten Mr. Elliot into a surrender of the Arms, which they insisted were legally supported [sic! imported]. The principal Gentlemen and Merchants to prevent mischeif waited upon Mr. Elliot in a body, assured him they were perfectly satisfied with his behaviour, and declared warmly against any who should attempt to insult him on account of what had happened, which silenced the others who were working in the dark and endeavouring to raise the populace

1. E. B. O'Callaghan, ed., *Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York* (Albany, 1850-1861), VIII, 528, 529. Hereafter cited as O'Callaghan, *Colonial New York*. Colden (1688-1776) had been Lieutenant Governor for twenty-five years.
2. The King's Order in Council, October 19, 1774.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN ¹

[Baltimore] Janry 4 1775

I have just time to inform You that the Brig *Hope* is Arrived ² & Also that I shall do My Best to give her dispatch for Dublin tho Wheat Flour & Flaxseed is Scarce & high. Flour 18/ Wheat 7/ Flaxseed 14/ & none of this last Article to be got. I shall write Messrs Robinson & Sandwith soon. I think there is about 12 of the Schooners Servants dead with a Bad fever. there is Also 8 more Yet Sick with flux &c &c. of Course there will not be much made of them I have sold about ½ of What is Alive pretty well but have not raised 200 £ cash the remg half I believe will Sell low & of Course Command no Cash ³ of Course What I ship p the *Hope* I will have to draw on G.D. & Shall Send it to his Address of Which inform him ⁴

1. Mercantile Letter Book of Woolsey and Salmon, Baltimore merchants, LC. Hereafter cited as Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC. As a new member of the firm of Woolsey and Salmon, George Salmon had gone to Europe to "drum up" business.
2. The brig *Hope*, George Robinson, master, of 105 tons, and a crew of 7, had entered that day from Dublin in ballast. Port of Entry Books, 1745-1775, Md. Arch.
3. The schooner *Industry*, the property of Woolsey and Salmon, had entered in early December 1774, from Dublin with a large number of indentured servants.
4. George Darley, a merchant of Dublin.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS, LONDON ¹

[Extract]

Charles Town [S. C.] 4th Janry 1775.

p *Le Despenser*

On the 9th Inst the Inhabitants of Charles Town are to meet in order to chuse a Committee of thirty to whom on the 11th the Country Committee are to be united & the whole will then proceed to the choice of Delegates to represent this Colony in general Congress of the United Colonies at Philadelphia the 10th of May next – mean time the Subsisting Committee exert themselves in the Duties

of their Office All goods imported from Great Britain are sold at public Auction, the first Cost & Charges restored to the respective Owners & the surplus funded for the benefit of the distressed Bostonians, even polly's little Wax Toys were sentenced to the Ceremony – hitherto a mere Ceremony because no person bids beyond the Cost & Charges, therefore the purchase is made of each parcel by the proprietor – after this Month expires the Severe discipline of total exclusion will take place Some people have insinuated that an immediate general Nonimportation from the province & a Stop to all Law proceedings will be moved for by a very strong party at the approaching meeting – I do not believe it – however it may be so – for the Reins are not in the hands of Towns Men as formerly I can perceive the Superiority which the Country people claim – they are most numerous most wealthy & no Man is now Supposed to be unequal to a Share in Government – I see trouble & confusion before me

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–1775, SCHS.

HENRY LAURENS TO RICHARD OSWALD, LONDON ¹

[Extract]

Charles Town [S. C.] 4th. January 1775

p *Le Despenser*

You will expect me to Say a word on our public affairs in which perhaps all Europe may eventually be concerned

On the 11th Inst there will be a meeting on this ground of Members elected in each district of the Province 120 in the whole – these are to Nominate Delegates to Represent So Carolina at a Second general Congress intended to be holden at Philadelphia the 10th May next – You have Seen the proceedings of the late Congress & probably have the Resolutions of both parties in view, while my knowledge is confined only to the efforts on this Side, I am persuaded from all the intelligence which I have received, that we are disposed to quietness & all the obedience that ought to be expected from us provided we are reinstated in the possession of those rights & privileges which we had enjoyed antecedent the Year 1763. – if this is denied us by the Mother Country, there will follow infinite trouble & distress throughout the Colonies of North America & I think it impossible but that Great Britain must participate largely in the general Calamity – Every Man here as far as I have discovered is agreed that opposition against the late Acts of Parliament which are the Subject of our dispute, ought to be made, these differ only in Sentiments on the mode – Some are Red-hot & foolishly talk of Arms & there is another extreme who Say that implicit obedience is the Surest Road to a redress of Grievances – the great majority of men here lie between, & are Men of Wealth & consideration – upon the whole Such are appearances that I too clearly perceive my little Estate to be in a most precarious Situation – one may be Rich here in Bonds bearing Interest never to be paid – plantations & negroes producing nothing or no Markets for the produce – & yet want the means of procuring decent food & rainment . . . I dare not justify every Act on the part of America in the course of her Struggles for 11 Years past but I may with Safety aver that aggression does not lie at her Door & that Wisdom & Sound policy are not Crimes chargeable upon the Administration of American Government within that term – tis high time for the

interposition of a mediaating power & Such I trust will be found within our own Realm

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–1775, SCHS.

5 Jan.

New York Journal, THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1775

New York, Jan. 5

Several letters by the last vessels from Great Britain and other parts of Europe, inform us, that immediately after the King's proclamation issued, prohibiting the exportation of arms and ammunition from Great-Britain, two men of war were ordered to the *Texel in Holland*, in order to prevent the transportation of those articles in English bottoms to America.

RIVINGTON'S *New York Gazetteer*, THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1775

New-York, January 5.

As we thought it would be agreeable to our readers to know the particulars of what has passed in this city, since the seizure of arms, &c. lately made at this port, for want of Cockets; we have been at pains to collect the following facts which may be depended upon.

As soon as the seizure was made, the ten cases and three boxes were carried to the Custom-House,¹ and the barrel of powder ordered to the powder-house – on the way, some people appeared and carried it off from the Waiter, who had it in charge; – this being reported at the custom-house, the Collector immediately went to the Coffee-house, and informed the merchants present, of the rescue, which they highly disapproved of, – proper steps were immediately taken, and in a few hours the powder was lodged in the powder-house: – to prevent any such attempts in future that might disturb the city, the boxes and cases were sent on board the [*Kingsfisher*] man of war.

Some days after this removal of the arms, &c. the Collector received from the post-office the following Letter.

Mr. Elliot

New-York, December 27th, 1774.

SIR, A Number of fire-arms of British manufacture, legally imported, having been lately seized by your orders and conveyed on board the man of war, by which arbitrary step you have declared yourself an inveterate enemy to the liberties of North-America; in this light we view you, and from you we shall demand those arms whenever they are wanted, which is probable will be soon. You will therefore, if you have the least regard to the safety of yourself or your servants, who seized them, be careful to prevent their being sent away, as you may depend upon answering for a contrary conduct with a vengeance. – We thought that your former genteel conduct in your department, intitled you to this notice, otherwise we should have been silent till a proper opportunity had offered, in which we might have done our country justice, by wreaking our resentment on you in a private manner: Do not slight this admonition or treat it as a vain menace, for we have most solemnly

sworn to effect it sooner or later, and you know that our nation are implacable, we would not have you imagine that it is in the power of any set of men, either civil or military to protect or shield you from our just revenge, which will be soon done; and in such manner as not to be known till it is fatally experienced by you.

From the *Mohawks and River Indians*.

The above was immediately copied and sent to the Coffee-house, where it was pasted up together with the Collectors answer, viz.

The original, of which the above is a copy, Mr. [Andrew] Elliot this morning received from the Post-office; he is obliged to answer it in this public manner, being entirely unacquainted with the author.

Mr. Elliot calls upon the person to appear, that can in any instance accuse him of having acted either arbitrarily or illegally in his office, that he may have an opportunity of answering him properly.

If the letter is wrote with a view to deter an officer from his duty, Mr. Elliot assures the writer, that as long as he has the honour to act as Collector, of the port of New-York, he will exert the same attention and firmness, that has for ten years past, enabled him to give satisfaction to his superiors in office; and to live happily among the inhabitants of this city.

ANDREW ELLIOT

At the Coffee-house the letter was by all disavowed, and greatly disapproved of: The Collectors manner of treating it, met with the highest approbation, notwithstanding which that very night the following printed hand-bill was secretly conveyed into almost every house in town.

TO the INHABITANTS of NEW-YORK.

My Dear Friends and Fellow Citizens,

At a time when slavery is clanking her infernal chains, and tyranny stands ready with goads and whips to enforce obedience to her despotic and cruel mandates; when oppression, with gigantic strides is approaching your once happy retreats, and her tools and minions are eagerly grasping, to seize the cup from the lip of industry; will you supinely fold your arms; and calmly see your weapons of defence torn from you, by a band of ruffians? You, whose glorious and renowned ancestors, freely lavished their blood and treasure, to secure to you the full enjoyment of liberty, that greatest of all temporal blessings; forbid it, Heaven! forbid it gratitude and honour! – How long will you patiently bear insult and wrong? Are you so callous and dead to every sense of honour, as to disregard your reputation; and the taunts and scoffs, of your fellow subjects in the neighbouring colonies? What is become of your former magnanimity and spirit; you who dared to degrade the Governor of the province, and exhibit his effigy, under the very muzzle of his cannon? ² Are you dwindled to such dastards and poltroons, as to suffer yourselves to

be insulted, and robbed of your arms, by a few petty Custom-house officers, with impunity? Methinks I hear you say, it cannot, it must not be: – Rouze then, my friends and countrymen, rouze and play the men upon this occasion; convince the world that you are still possessed of the same noble spirit, by which you were actuated in former times, and that whoever injures you, shall not fail to feel the weight of your resentment; your country has been basely robbed (by the officers of the customs) of a considerable number of arms, which were legally exported from Great-Britain, and imported here, in the ship *Lady Gage*,³ and therefore not liable to a seizure, upon any pretence whatsoever, as they are actually the manufacture of England: – Those arms (I am credibly informed) are now on board the man of war, and are in a few days to be sent to General [Thomas] Gage, and of consequence are to be used for your destruction: Can you bear such a thought? especially when you have it in your power to prevent it; does not the bare idea of it, harrow up your souls? In the name of Heaven, throw off your supineness; assemble together immediately, and go in a body to the Collector, insist upon the arms being relanded, and that he must see them forth-coming, or abide the consequences; delays are dangerous; there is no time to be lost: It is not a season to be mealy-mouthed, or to mince matters; the times are precarious and perilous, and we do not know but the arms may be wanted tomorrow.

PLAIN ENGLISH

Some people may endeavour to persuade you, that it would be improper to call upon the Collector in such a way, on account of his former polite behaviour to the mercantile body, but this objection has not the least weight in it, as he has shewn himself inimical to the liberties of America, and has therefore cancelled every obligation.

Early next morning a number of the principal merchants assembled, waited on the Collector the Customs House, and assured him of their intentions to support him in the legal execution of his duty.

They then accompanied him to the Coffee House, where he was met by numbers of the inhabitants of all ranks (among whom was a number of Masters of ships, with their men) who appeared, with readiness to shew how much they esteemed the Collector as a just and good officer.

Some gentlemen then called upon the authors of the letter or hand-bill to appear, or any other person, and accuse the Collector of having, in any instance acted either arbitrarily or illegally; that the writing such letters, or disturbing officers in their duty, must be abhorred by all men that wish the support of civil government and good order; that in the present case it appeared the Collector had done nothing but his duty, and that it was therefore incumbent on the inhabitants to support him.

The justness of this proposal, and the inclination of the people present to adopt it, was instantly testified by three cheers. – The Collector then stepped forward, politely thanked the audience for their kind attention on this occasion; assuring them that nothing could be more pleasing to him than this public testi-

mony of their approbation, both as a fellow-citizen, and as an officer of government; at the same time declaring his intention of steadily adhering to his former conduct.⁴

1. The Merchants Coffee House stood on the southeast corner of Wall and Water Streets.
2. The reference is to the day when the Stamp Act became effective. Then a great crowd on the Bowling Green burned in effigy Lieutenant Governor Cadwallader Colden, the devil, and a chaise and two sleighs from the governors' coach house.
3. The ship *Lady Gage*, Thomas Mesnard, master, arrived from London, December 10, 1774, ten days after the Continental Association became effective. Her general cargo was disposed of under the inspection of a committee.
4. In the New York State Library at Albany is a manuscript prepared by Andrew Elliot which bears the lengthy title, "A Short Detail of the Conduct of the Collector of New York from December 1774 to March 1776 when the Intercourse Act took place - Commencing with the Account of the Seizure of Arms &c Published in the Newspapers at New York the 29th December 1774." After quoting in full the article from Rivington's *New York Gazetteer* he continued: "The Arms mentioned together with some Gun Powder was Seized by the Collector, as they were coming from on Board one of the London Ships, to be Shipped on Board a Vessel for Rhode Island, the Reason of Seizure was, no Cocket appearing for them amongst the Ships Papers. . . The Arms &ca were immediately sent by the Collector on board either the *Asia* or *Phoenix* Man of War to prevent their being rescued, as a Seizure of some Goods made a little before this time had been at noon Day taken out of the Custom House Cellar by the Mob. - The Collector understands that the Arms were afterwards put on board the *King Fisher* Man of War, Capt'n [James] Montague, who carried them to Virginia, where they were opened by Lord Dunmore and distributed among the People under his Command." Elliot's memory was at fault as to the immediate disposition of the arms. Neither the *Asia* nor the *Phoenix* were in New York Harbor at that time, and the arms were carried directly to the *Kingsfisher*. Andrew Elliot Papers, Box I, Folder 6, NYSL.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA ¹

[Wilmington] Thursday, January 5th 1775

Resolved, That the following notice be sent to the Merchants of Wilmington, by Mr. [Samuel] Swan, and Mr. [William] Robeson, to wit:

To the Merchants of the town of Wilmington, Masters of vessels and traders: The committees of the county of New-Hanover and of the town of Wilmington, united and met for the important purpose of carrying into execution the resolves of the Continental Congress, earnestly request of you, as well wishers to the common cause of America, in which we are all embarked, to signify to them, by the bearers of this, if you have any gunpowder on hand, and what quantity, that this committee, may in consequence of that information, take the most prudent steps, to guard against the melancholy effects, which may result from this part of the Province, being left in a state totally deficient for the want of ammunition. It is likewise requested that you would cease to make further sales thereof, until informed by the committee

Signed Cornelius Hartnett, Chairman

Mr. Swann and Mr. Robeson, returned an account of the gunpowder in Wilmington, 143 lbs. in the hands of the several merchants applied to.

The committee sent the papers of the following tenor, to the persons within named by Mr. Swann and Mr. Robeson.

Mr. John Burgwin,² John Robeson, McTier Ancrum, Foster and Brice, Thomas Orr, George and Thomas Hooper, Hogg and Campbell, George Doherty, and Charles Jecokes

The King's proclamation, prohibiting the further exportation of gunpowder from Great Britain, renders it highly necessary, that some expedient should be adopted to prevent the melancholy consequence which to a province in respect to its inhabitants, circumstanced as this is, may in future arise from a total want of that article, We, therefore gentlemen, assure ourselves, that you, animated with the same liberal sentiments that we feel, will contribute what at present falls to your particular department for the promotion of the public good.

The quantity of Gunpowder which is at present in the town is very inconsiderable, and it is absolutely necessary, that what there is should be reserved for any future emergencies, that we may be prepared for every the worst contingencies.

We therefore, gentlemen, entreat you by the ties of honor and virtue, and love for your country, as you prize the regard of your fellow-citizens, as you wish to avoid the censure of this committee, and those whom they represent, that you would not within thirty days from this time, remove out of this town, or make sale of any of the gunpowder which you have reported to this committee, as the stock you have upon hand before the expiration of which time, this committee will endeavor to collect by subscription, and they doubt not of success, a sum sufficient to purchase and pay you for the whole of it at the reasonable price of three shillings per pound, which some of your well disposed brethern have consented to take. And as it is intended to be made use of as much for your security as of the rest of the inhabitants of this part of the province, we address you with a certainty of succeeding in this application, which should it appear to you to carry with it any thing uncommon, will find an ample vindication in the present critical circumstances of this province.

Signed Cornelius Hartnett, Chairman

Mr. Swann and Mr. Robeson, made report to the committee, that all the persons applied to had complied to the request of the committee, excepting Mr. Burgwin, whose answers appeared to be evasive, as he neither specified the quantity of powder he could spare nor absolutely fixed the price he would take for it, Therefore,

Resolved, unanimously, that Mr. Burgwin's answer is unsatisfactory, and deserves the censure of this committee, and that he have notice thereof.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina* IX, 1109–1111.

2. Burgwin offered a satisfactory reply and explanation, which the committee accepted on January 6, 1775.

6 Jan.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

[Boston] 6th [January, 1775]

The rebellious proceedings of the Rhode Islanders, in forming a Magazine of Arms at Providence, and seizing the Kings Cannon at Fort George, made the Admiral lay aside his Design of keeping the *Swan* at Boston, as Schooners could not be fitted for Service for some time to come; and he sent her this day for Rhode Island to be employed together with the *Hope* Schooner, by Captain [James]

Wallace, in the best manner he could for preventing the unlawful Introduction of Arms and Ammunition.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 41, 42, MassHS Transcript.

7 Jan.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1775

Providence, January 7.

Since our last Captain [Elisha] Warner arrived here from New York – A Quantity of Small-Arms, &c. lately arrived there from England, the Property of two Merchants of this Town, having been put on board Captain Warner, were seized and detained by the Officers of the Customs.¹

Saturday last [December 31] the *Hind* Frigate, of 20 Guns, arrived at Newport from England.

1. See Rivington's *New York Gazetteer*, January 5, 1775.

8 Jan. (Sunday)

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Preston Boston January 8th 1775

In a Letter dated the 19th of December, and sent by the Sloop *Phoenix* from Salem, I acquainted you with the Arrival of his Majesty's Ship *Somerset* on that day from Plymouth. This Ship with the *Boyne* and *Asia* are now moored before the Town of Boston, and I have the pleasure to say their Companies are in general very healthy; The *Somerset* was so leaky at Sea that two Hand Pumps were continually at Work, and it is the constant Employment at present of one hand pump to Keep her free.

In consequence of a Letter from Governor [John] Wentworth of New Hampshire, which I received by Express on Friday Evening the 16th December, a Copy of which (Marked A) is inclosed. I ordered the *Canceaux* and *Scarborough* to sail immediately for Piscataqua, And as the Governor had represented the Custom House and Province Treasuries to be in Danger I put a Subaltern Officer and twenty Marines on board the *Canceaux* who sailed that Night, and the *Scarborough* on Sunday Morning, though the Weather was very severe. I gave Captain [Andrew] Barkley Orders to afford the Governor, upon his requisition, every aid and assistance in his power, and to do his utmost to protect the Kings Servants and Stores with his Majesty's Ships under his Command.

On the 24th following I received Letters from the Governor, Captain Barkley, and Lieut. [Henry] Mowat, Copies of the two first (marked B and C) are inclosed. You will perceive by those Letters that the sudden and unexpected appearance of the King's Ships in the River prevented a great Number of Cannon being carried off, and all further riotous proceedings at Portsmouth.

I transmit a copy of a Letter from Governor Wentworth (marked D).² I declined complying with his Excellency's Request for the Sloop of War and the Marines therein mentioned, and acquainted him that having a great extent of Coast to guard I could not conveniently spare so large a part of his Majesty's

Squadron to be at one place, more especially as I was of opinion the *Scarborough* and *Canceaux* were fully capable of protecting the Treasuries, and of affording Refuge to his Majesty's Servants should they at any time consider themselves to be in Danger.

On the 18th instant I received a Letter from Captain [James] Wallace of his Majesty's Ship *Rose* with a Copy of his Letter to Governor [Joseph] Wanton on the riotous behaviour of the Mob at Rhode Island. Copies of both Letters (marked E. F.) are inclosed ³ Though I was highly pleased with the Spirit Captain Wallace shewed on that occasion, I could not avoid expressing to him my satisfaction that the Mob declined putting their tarring and feathering Scheme into execution being apprehensive his waiting so long for their Approach was not strictly justifiable, and may have been attended with fatal Consequences.

General [Thomas] Gage having requested that the Supernumerary Marines on board the Squadron might be landed at Boston to be disciplined this Winter in a manner to enable them to act on Shore with the rest of the Kings Troops, and it being our opinion that whilst they are on shore they should be on the same footing with the rest of the Soldiers in regard to their pay and provisions, as they are all employed on the same Service; I have in Compliance with his requisition disembarked all the Supernumerary Marines and ordered them to be discharged from their respective Ships; And by desire of Major [John] Pitcairne have also lent them three subaltern Officers and three Serjeants, part of the Complement of the Ships lately arrived from England . . .

On the 20th of December I received by express from Captain Wallace an account that the *William and Ann* Ordnance Transport from Plymouth, laden with five hundred Barrels of Gunpowder, bound to New York, had put into Rhode Island the 19th in great Distress, her Rudder lost, and her Mainmast disabled; as the powder is consigned to the Commanding Officer of Artillery in America for the use of the Army, the General and Colonel [Samuel] Cleaveland have given directions concerning it; In the meantime the Transport is assisted and protected by the *Rose*, who by being at Rhode Island has most certainly prevented that powder from being seized and carried to Providence.

The *Halifax* Schooner is so very leaky and out of Repair, and is in such continual want of patching to make her swim, that she is totally unfit for any Service but to be at Anchor, which I have directed her to do this Winter, and in the Spring intend to have her surveyed; she is a very bad low Vessel, and so extremely wet and uncomfortable to the Sea men that no consideration will keep them belonging to her.

The *Hope* is in very little better Condition, and must go to England when the Season will allow me to venture her, therefore as there is an absolute necessity for good armed Schooners capable of performing real Service to the Crown, and one is at this time particularly wanted to guard one of the Channels at Rhode Island to prevent the unlawful Importation of Gunpowder Arms and Ammunition &c which from very good Intelligence I am told will be attempted in large Quantities at that place I have taken upon me to purchase the *Diana* Schooner of 120 Tons, about eight Months old, so exceedingly well built that she is allowed to

be the best Vessel of the Kind that has been yet in the Kings Service, her first cost is £750 Sterling and as I have thought it best for his Majesty's Service that she should be an established armed Schooner, I have directed the necessary alterations to be made in her Hull, and for her to be fitted in all respects like other Vessels of her Class; She will have the *St Lawrence's* Guns. On this Occasion I have appointed Lieut. Thomas Graves of his Majesty's Ship *Lively* to command the *Diana* Schooner, and Mr William Lechmere of the *Preston* to be Lieutenant of the *Lively*. The *Diana* will soon be ready for Sea, and I shall send her to Rhode Island.

As I am extremely desirous of carrying on the King's Service with all possible frugality, I shall defer taking up the two Schooners their Lordships have directed me to hire for guarding this Harbour until the Weather being less severe than at present will admit of Vessels navigating: The Schooners then will be of great use, but at present only an unnecessary Charge.

In consequence of their Lordships permission Signified to me in your Letter of the 14th of October to purchase a small Sloop to supply the place of the late *Jupiter* employed on the Survey under the direction of Captain [Samuel] Holland, I caused the Sloop *Spinckes* [*Sphynx*] of 46 Tons Burthen to be purchased for two hundred and twenty pounds Sterling and delivered to Lieut. Mowat of the *Canceaux* for the above Service. I am sorry I am obliged to add that after having fitted and stored her properly for the Service she was intended, in going round to Piscataqua after *Canceaux*, she ran ashore about Cape Anne; I have sent a Sloop with a Number of hands to endeavour to save the Vessel, if that shall be impossible, to bring away the Stores.

I omitted in a former Letter to acquaint you that a Vessel being to depart from this Harbour in Ballast to New York, I procured her to go to Piscatagua and take in Captain Holland, his Instruments Servants and Baggage, and carry them to Perth Amboy, as he desired, for £50 Sterling, instead of hiring a Ship on purpose, which must otherwise have been done at a much greater Expence.

The Weather has been lately so severe that we have not been able to get the *Glasgow* cleared for the Carpenters, neither is it possible till that is done and she is hawl'd ashore to ascertain the damage she has received; In the mean time her Sails and Rigging and all her other Stores are put in some Store house on Noddle's Island, which I have caused to be hired at the rate of £40 per Annum for that purpose, and which shall be discharged when ever the *Glasgow* can receive her Stores again.

The *Lively* got round to Salem the 30th of December. The *Swan* arrived here from New York the 18th and sailed again for Rhode Island the 6th instant. The *Hope* Schooner sailed for the same place on Christmas Day.

On the 24th of December I received your Letter of the 2d of November concerning the Sloop *John* David Fenton Master, and in obedience to their Lordships Directions I have given strict Orders to endeavour to intercept the said Sloop which I find upon Inquiry is, as well as the Master well known.

I have lately heard from the Captains of all his Majesty's Ships to the Southward of Boston, and think it proper to transmit a Copy of the *Tamers* Defects for

their Lordships Information. I transmit also the State and Condition and Disposition of his Majesty's Squadron under my Command,⁴ with the State of the Hospital. I am &c

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 42-48, MassHS Transcript.
2. Wentworth's letters of December 14, 20 and 30, and Barkley's letter of December 20, 1774, appear under the above dates.
3. Wallace's letter of December 15, to Wanton, and his letter to Graves, of the same date, also appear under that date.
4. See "Disposition of the Squadron under Vice Admiral Samuel Graves, 1 January, 1775."

9 Jan.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 1775

Newport, January 9.

The fore part of last week a man belonging to the *Hind* frigate, in this harbour, fell overboard and was drowned, but was taken up, and on Thursday last [January 5] was carried ashore at Goat-Island and buried; one of the people who went ashore, and was left to take care of the barge, turned the barge adrift, and then came off in the boat belonging to Fort George, and notwithstanding he was fired at three times, he landed at some part of this town, and made his escape, the other people having no boat to pursue him.

New York Gazette, MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 1775

New York, January 9.

Yesterday Week [January 1] arrived at Rhode-Island, a Ship of 20 Guns, from England, with 200 Marines on board, bound for Boston.¹ This is the Ship we imagine was lately seen off by Capt. Harriot.²

1. H.M.S. *Hind*. See *Providence Gazette*, January 7, 1775.
2. Captain N. Harriot, inbound from Jamaica in the sloop *Charlotte*.

12 Jan.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN ¹

[Baltimore] 12 [January, 1775]

I wrote You the 4th Instant (Copy) of Which You now have to Which refer. I shall be a good dale Pushed for money to get the *Hope loaded* I am in Advance for [Benjamin] Fleming & raise very little out of the Schooners Servants & have yet nineteen of them on hands, the Schooner is Sailed this Evening for Ant[igua] ² Mostly on fright I shall Soon write about her to You. I have this day wrote to Rob Lisle Esqr of Newcastle on Tyne & have told him You will be on that Town I think You had better go there you can Introduce Yourself to him as a Partner of the House that done Ben Flemings Businss but I think You might Manage to be there When Fleming is at Home & woud have you with him about it—

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.
2. The schooner *Industry*, John Blakeney, master, sailed January 9, 1775, with a cargo of 70 barrels of pork, 130 barrels of flour, 200 barrels of bread, 1 ton of bar iron, 6000 hoops and headings, 2000 hoops, and 5000 shingles.

13 Jan.

BETHABARA DIARY 1775 [WRITTEN BY REV. LORENZO BAGGE] ¹

Jan. 13.

A man from our neighbourhood, who left Philadelphia, Dec. 26, 1774, reported that store goods were very high there; that the fleet lay before Boston; that troops were being enlisted in Pennsylvania.

1. Wachovia Archives, Winston-Salem, N.C.; printed in Adelaide L. Fries, ed., *Records of the Moravians in North Carolina*, (Raleigh, 1925), II, 900. Hereafter cited as Fries, ed., *Moravians in North Carolina*.

14 Jan.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1775

Providence, January 14.

The latest Accounts from England, by Capt. Cochran,¹ arrived at New York, are, that Orders have been given for the seizing every Ship, of what Nation soever, employed in conveying Arms or Ammunition to the Americans.

1. Ship *Lilly*, Captain T. Cochran, which arrived January 3, 1775, from Greenock, Scotland.

15 Jan. (Sunday)

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 15th January 1775

Since my last Dispatch dated the 8th instant two Courts Martial have been held; upon Captain [William] Maltby, and the Gunner of his Majesty's Ship *Glasgow*, I transmit Copies of the sentences and will send the originals by the first Conveyance of a King's Ship. The Court having dismissed Captain Maltby from the Command of the *Glasgow*, I have appointed Mr Tyringham Howe Commander of the *Cruizer* to succeed him; and Lieutenant Francis Parry of the *Preston* to command the *Cruizer*. I have also removed Lieut. John Graves of the *Somerset* into the *Preston* and appointed Mr William Fulk Greville to be fourth Lieutenant of the *Somerset*.

On the 12th instant I received Letters from Captain [Andrew] Barkley of the *Scarborough*, and Lieutenant [Henry] Mowat of the *Canceaux*, acquainting me that in getting the *Canceaux* near the Town of Portsmouth at the desire of Governor [John] Wentworth the Pilot ignorantly anchored her at high Water in a spot where she had not Room to live afloat, and where she was benipped four and twenty hours. Captain Barkley sent every assistance in his power from the *Scarborough*, and hired a light Sloop to go along side, and take out her Stores, but the Weather being extremely cold, and the Wind down the River, the Sloop could not reach the *Canceaux* till the next Morning, when the Tide being somewhat higher than usual, upon heaving their Iron Ballast overboard, she got off. Lieutt Mowat acquaints me that the Ship makes little or no Water, and that he believes the only damage she has sustained is losing a part of her false Keel, and the part below the Iron Work on her Rudder a little shattered; therefore as no

immediate inconvenience attends this accident, the *Canceaux* shall continue before the Town of Portsmouth untill the Spring affords a proper opportunity to examine and repair her Bottom.

Captain Barkley writes me that the people in general are at present pretty quiet; and that it is reported the Principal Inhabitants of Portsmouth will soon have a Meeting to consult upon returning the Guns and Gunpowder carried off by the Mob. It is however certain that those who committed the late Outrage are skulking about the Country, and are only prevented by the King's Ships in the River from being as insolent & troublesome as ever.

I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO PETER VANDERVOORT & CO., NEW YORK ¹

N London Jan 15 1775

I Recd yr p *Macerone* ² with the Cash This is just to let you know that I intend as soon as [Edward] Chappell Returns that he will go on board the *Macerone* for West India & will call on you for one hundred bar Super fine flour & two hundred half Johannises ³ which should be glad you would have Ready for him. Hope you have been able to get the 100 bar of pork at the price I wrote for from Hartford last week. I am Gentlemen [&c.]

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

2. Sloop *Macaroni*, spelled various ways in the Letter Book.

3. A Portuguese gold coin worth about \$9.00.

16 Jan.

"REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER" ¹

Jany 1775

Monday 16th P M sent an Officer & 20 men to bring 5 of the Province Guns to the Fort

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

New York Gazette MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 1775

New York, January 16.

Thursday last [January 12] his Majesty's Frigate the *King-Fisher*, Capt. [James] Montague, went up to Turtle-Bay to lay there for the Winter Season.¹

1. "I know it has been usual for the Kings Ships stationed at New York to hawl to the Wharf during the severity of Winter," Vice Admiral Graves wrote to Captain Montagu of the *Kingsfisher* on December 1, 1774, "but at present it may be dangerous to continue a practice which in my Opinion necessity alone could ever justify. I am informed there are two places in the River where a Ship may lie at her Anchors out of the Stream and not to be frozen up. I desire you will inform yourself of them, and shall be very glad if either is proper for your Sloop, being very unwilling that at this Juncture she should go to a Wharf, where at any time Discipline can be very indifferently observed, and where from the inactive Situation of the Sloop men will have too many Incitements to desert." Graves's Conduct, I, 31, MassHS Transcript.

18 Jan.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS, LONDON ¹

[Extract]

Charles Town 18th. January 1775

My Dear Son I wrote to you the 4th. Inst. p *L Despenser* & 8th p Capt. Mattocs to which please to refer –

On the 11th all the deputies from the Several parishes & districts in this province except a very few who were unable to attend, met in General provincial Congress at Pike's long Room where C[harles] Pinckney was called to the Chair & Election adjusted – thence we adjourned to the Assembly's Room in the State House & there have we Sat every day, Sunday not excepted, from Morning to Night; my Dining hour was from 6 to 9 o'Clock & once after Midnight, during Eight days we performed a multitude of Speechifying & Some business with all the Solemnity & formality of a Constitutional parliament – As the Copy of our whole proceedings cannot be procured in time for this conveyance I will recount as well as memory enables me the principal articles –

The Journal of the Continental Congress at Philadelphia being read as a Report from our Carolina Delegates, the conclusion of the 4th Clause of the Association which excepts *Rice* from the intended Non exportation after the 10th September was arrested, great offence was taken much altercation ensued – My Neighbour it Seems had originally opposed that exemption in Congress & his acquiescence gained by expostulation – he finding the measure was disgustful & that hard constructions were passed, attempted to exonerate himself & made Such a defence of his own conduct as fell little Short of an impeachment of that of his Colleagues who are much displeased with him, he confessed that he had acted against his judgement & as there was but one other Side which he could take – his Interest – he made upon the whole but an uncouth figure. – Evil Spirits had Stirred up the Jealousy of the Indigo Planter who complained that partiality had been Shewn to the Rice Maker, the alarm Spread through the Several Classes of Tobacco Planter, Lumber Cutter, Tar Maker – in short every Planter & Herdsman considered his Constituent as injured in the Supposed indulgence to Rice, a general Murmur ensued, the Rice Maker dreaded a disunion & however he was persuaded that an exportation of Rice would be of public benefit, might aid & could not possibly injure other planters, yet many indeed most of them expressed a willingness to forego the Seeming advantage or to make Some compensation to their Brethren the Supposed Sufferers – Mr [Thomas] Lynch honestly assumed the blame if any for the obnoxious Act, he was joined by the Rutledges (Mr [Henry] Middleton was not present) -these three desired the merits might be tried & refused the thanks of the people before their conduct should be fully canvassed, they defended their cause with equal Skill & candour nor were they unassisted & after near three days contest the exemption was confirmed by a Vote of 87 to 75 –² Mr [Christopher] Gadsden was upon the question in opposition to his Colleagues, I humbly think he was wrong on both Sides & his behaviour underwent much censure – it Seems to have confirmed a Serious Separation between him & the two Brothers – in the course of his debate he made & repeated certain declarations

which whatever might have been his private Sentiments, discretion Should have locked up in his own breast – in full Congress in the hearing of a Crowd of Spectators he insisted that from the beginning his opinion was to prohibit the Merchants from paying their debts to Great Britain by any Remittances in Bills of Exchange, Gold & Silver or other Merchandize – & that if his advice had been followed General [Thomas] Gage & his Soldiers would have been Sent back to England immediately upon their landing at Boston – I heard the first Scheme with abhorrence & did not fail to declare my Sentiments accordingly & for the latter I know how easy it was for that Gentleman to March through the Cherokee Mountains kill every Indian & return unscalped to Charles Town without moving one Step from his Fire Side – Shipping of a veteran British General & three Thousand regular Troops with less trouble than he could Ship a Cargo of Rice was an inter-prizing Reverie fit only to be laughed at.

After that great affair of the Rice was decided on or rather as a means to get well over it, a plan was proposed for making compensation to the Indigo Planter & others who by the Association are to be restrained from exportation, calculated as it appeared to me merely to Sooth the Complainers, I was of the Committee who formed the Scheme & uniformly opposed it in Commee & Congress – called it a play thing, a Rattle, declared that it was neither *Just* nor *Wise* nor *Adequate* to the purpose intended – but it passed . . .

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–1775, SCHS.

2. The Journal of the First Provincial Congress of South Carolina makes no reference to the bitter debates upon the rice question, but reports merely, “Resolved, That this Congress do approve the American Association.”

19 Jan.

Maryland Gazette, THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1775

Annapolis, January 19.

The ship *Annapolis*, Capt. Eden cleared, out on Saturday last for London, and will return to Maryland immediately.¹ The *Sophia*, Capt. Richardson, will load in Patuxent river, and the *Sim*, Capt. [John Thomas] Boucher, in Potowmack. Both these ships are now in the country, and are expected to be loaded with great dispatch; they are now taking in tobacco at £7 per ton as usual, consigned to Thomas Eden and company.

1. In order to take in another cargo for England before the deadline of September 10, 1775.

20 Jan.

PETITION FROM A NUMBER OF INHABITANTS OF SCITUATE AND MARSHFIELD ¹

To Excellency General Gage &c at Boston

[Jan. 20, 1775] ²

We the Subscribers Inhabitants of Scituate and Marshfield, being loyall Subjects of his Majesty King George the Third, desirous of Supporting his Crown, & dignity and the Laws of Great Brittain, But being insulted, our persons and property's threatned by many ill disposed people, who declare their intention of Assembling in great Numbers to Attack & destroy us and many others among us

who are determined as far as in us lies to Support the Laws of the Realm, and repel by force every unlawfull Attempt to destroy his Majestys good Government over us, Desire we may be Assisted with One Hundred of his Majestys troops to repair to Marshfield as Soon as conveniently may (or such number as may be thought proper) by whose Assistance we will to the Utmost of our power repel and resist any violent or rebellious attempt that may be made against us, or any other of his Majesty's loyall & peaceable Subjects whom we can protect there are about two Hundred & forty in Marshfield & Scituate who are loyally disposed & who we have good reason to believe will stand forth in Support of his Majestys Government: And as in duty bound &c do pray &c

Scituate
Justice Peace Charles Stockbridge
Charles Curtis
Samuel Stetson
Luke Hall
Elijah Curtis

Marshfield
J. P. Abijah White
Daniel White
Nath^l White
Paul White
Cornelius White

In behalf of ourselves and our Associates

1. Gage Papers, CL.
2. The date is approximated. As will be seen later, the desired reinforcement was sent January 23. Marshfield lies approximately twenty-two miles southeast of Boston, and the appeal seems to have been answered promptly.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN OF EAST FLORIDA TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

No 10.

My Lord; I have the honour, to receive, your Lordship's favour, of the 19. October, inclosing a copy, of His Majesty's order in Council, to prohibit the exportation from Great Britain, of Gunpowder, or, any sort of Arms or Ammunition.

The most effectual measures, my Lord, in execution of His Majesty's commands shall be established for arresting, detaining, and securing any Gunpowder, or, any sort of arms, or ammunition, which may be attempted, to be imported, into this Province: unless the proper licence be produced, for the exportation of the same, from some of the Ports of Great Britain.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect, &c, St Augustine
20. Janry 75

Pat. Tonyn

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/555, LC Transcript.

21 Jan.

RECEIPT FOR BEEF RECEIVED ON BOARD H.M.S. *Hind* FROM CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN ¹

RECEIVED of Mr. *Christopr Champlin* Agent to the Contractor for supplying His Majesty's Ships at *Newport Rhode Island* with Fresh Beef between the 2d Day of ——— and the 21 Day of *Jany. 1775* Two thousand & Sixty Pounds of Fresh Beef, for the Use of His Majesty's Ship the *Hind* all which said Beef

was actually delivered on board in Kind, and was in all Respects good and fit for his Majesty's Service; for which I have signed Three Receipts of this Tenor and Date. Given under my Hand, and dated on board the said Ship in *Newport* this 21 Day of *Jany.* 1775

John Murray PURSER.

I *Chris. Champlin* do voluntarily make Oath, That *Two thousand & Sixty* Pounds of Fresh Beef, mentioned in the above Receipt, from Mr. *John Murray* Purser, of his Majesty's Ship the *Hind* was actually delivered on board His Majesty's said Ship in Kind between the 2d Day of ——— and the 21 Day of *January 1775* and that I neither have paid or given, or am to pay or give the Purser, or any other Person or Persons whatsoever, any Money or other Consideration whatsoever, in Lieu of all or any Part of the said Beef.

Sworn before me

Martin Howard Juste Peace —

this 21 Day of

Chris. Champlin

Jany. 1775

1. Champlin Papers, RIHS. Printed form with filled in words in italics. See requisition under date of January 2, 1775.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN ¹

[Baltimore] 21 [January 1775]

[Extract]

I wrote you the 12 Inst Since then I Have Recvd yours of the 1st November Inclosing Fords order.² but shall not write him untill I find whither I can get a Vessell or not wheat can be got but not less than 7/2 a 7/3 as we cannot go on the Road to Purchase for Want of the Necessary, on Rect of this You will find how our Friends have disapointed themselves by Limmiting us I have rec'd a letter from Gaussan, Anderson & Atkinson,³ the purport you already know, you may be assured if Vessels can be got, I will Compleat Fords orders & Shoud Gaussans Brig Come I suppose She must be Loaded. I have now on Board the *Hope* 160 Hdds, 400 Barrels, & I hope to get her away in Eight days if the River keeps open. I have already wrote You I must draw on G[eorge] D[arley] for What I ship on our own Acct & be sure You make the Necessary Provision for them, as Yet I have not drawn for one penny, but must soon & if the Vessel is not Froze up I make no doubt of the Cargo Arriving in Time to put G D in Cash to pay the Bills I shall Insure the amount of What I ship for ourselves in Philaa I suppose G. D. will hold a Part, therefore refer You to him as I have wrote him fully I shall write You Soon be sure Inform your Northern friends the State of our Markets as I have wrote but few of them there will be large Quantitys of Flour to Ship in the Spring as the Roads are very Bad & little Cornes to market

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. James Forde, merchant of Drogheda, Ireland.

3. David Gaussan, George Anderson and James Atkinson, merchants at Newry, Northern Ireland.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO ROBINSON & SANDWITH, DUBLIN MERCHANTS ¹

[Baltimore] Janry 21 1775

[Extract]

Annexed you have a Coppy of what we wrote you the 7th Inst since then (we have the pleasure to Inform you) our River Still has kept so free of Ice that Ships may Depart and we flatter our Selves that we will be able to get your Brig ² Away in Eight Days from this as we only wait for a little wheat in the After hold to be able to Complete her load there is now on board one hundred & Sixty Hhds Seed, and about four hundred Barrells Nearly and we are in hop[e]s the Wheat will be on board all in three days. and we are Realy happy in the thought in getting her away before the River is Stopped. We have Shipped on board for your Acct fifty Hhds Seed of Wheat or perhaps more if the room will hold it. as the Roads are Excessive Bad and little wheat to be got but out of Craft we have been obliged to give 7/3 for what we ship in the brig Indeed we would not have given so much had not the Season of the year Been Precarious, and we have got it of the best Quality. the price in General from 7/ to 7/3 as in Quallity Scarce [flour] from 17/ a 18/3 flaxseed also scarce from 13/6 to 14/ yours will cost 13/8 . . . but have been obliged to give 14/ for the most of What is in your Brig. we learn from N Y that the[y] Ship 17000 Hhds there 10000 [at] Philada and we think we will Ship about 1500 here. from which Circumstances we Judge you will have as Much this Season as you had last. We shall write you soon.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Brig *Hope*MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA ¹

[Wilmington] 10 o'clock Saturday, Jan. 21st, 1775

Messrs. George and Thomas Hooper, H. Blackmore, Arthur Mobson and Peter Mallett, reported sundry negroes, imported by them since the 1st day of December last.

Resolved, That notices be sent to Messrs. George and Thomas Hooper, Hinall Blackmore, Arthur Mobson, and Peter Mallett, to re-ship, by the first opportunity, the sundry negroes they have imported since the 1st day of December last. It being the opinion of this Committee that such importations are contrary to the resolves of the Continental Congress, and a particular resolve of this committee.

1. Thomas Loring, ed., *Proceedings of the Safety Committee of the Town of Wilmington, N.C. from 1774 to 1776* (Raleigh, 1844). Hereafter cited as Loring, ed., *Safety Committee of Wilmington, N.C.*

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

. . . Your Lordship will be pleased to observe, in my letter No. 7. of 23d Sepr I mention in it, to your Lordship, that I had wrote, to the Commander of His Majestys Fleet at Jamaica, that a Vessel might be sent, to inspect along the Coast;

I also wrote, to Governor Chester at Pensacola to apply to the Commander of His Majestys ships there, that no illicit trade might be carried on by the Spaniards, on the Western Coast of this Province.

This was done, in consequence of reports made to me, by our Settlers at the Musketers, that the Spaniards came on our coast and into the Rivers, to entice away their Slaves. I informed all the Settlers, the moment they sent/me intelligence, of the arrival, of any Spaniards, I would without delay, dispatch the Government Vessel, with proper Officers on Board, to examine the Spaniards, and warn them away; but, I have had no report of any Spaniards, although I have constantly on every occasion inquired into it: the answer I receive is, that the Spaniards have not appeared this Year. The complaint I am very apt to think, was intirely, without real foundation, and calculated to serve some private purposes, which may perhaps hereafter appear. I also inquired, if any Slaves, had ever been taken off by the Spaniards? I do not find, my Lord, that any Slave ever was taken.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect &c.

St Augustine 21. Janry 1775.

Pat. Tonyn

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/555, LC Transcript.

23 Jan.

“REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER”¹

Jany 1775 P M Fired 2 Nine Pounders shotted & brought too a Ship from Monday 23d St. Christophers, Impress'd two men from her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

[Boston] 23d [January, 1775]

The *Diana* Schooner sailed with a party of the Kings own Regiment on board² to the Succour of a Number of well affected Inhabitants of the Town of Marshfield, and had Orders to proceed to North River and there to remain eight days or longer if the Magistrates should request it and there should be a necessity for so doing.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 49, 50, MassHS Transcript.

2. “Last Week a Detachment of about 120 Soldiers from the Army in this Place, under the Command of Capt. Burflour were embarked in armed Vessels for Marshfield, about 40 Miles from this Capital. We are at a loss for the Occasion of this extraordinary Manoeuvre, as all our Accounts from Marshfield agree, that the People in that Vicinity were peaceable and no Injury had been offered to any of the Tories. A few Persons there it is said, who had rendered themselves disagreeable and contemptible to their Neighbours, had taken it into their Heads to make Application to General Gage, for Military Protection: In this they engaged a Number of idle young Persons and some Negroes to join them. The Letters from thence agree that the Number and Quality of the Petitioners are despicable. Some Inhabitants not unfriendly to the Tory Cause, signified their disapprobation of this Measure; it was then however encouraged it is said, by a Mandamus Counsellor, lately belonging to that Place, and some of his particular Connections. The sending the Soldiers alarms and irritates the Country; but what Service the Tory Cause is to receive from this step, Time will discover.”
Boston Gazette, January 30, 1775.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE ¹

[Boston] 23rd [January, 1775]

A Detachment consisting of . . . 100, embarked this afternoon on board The Armed Schooner *Diana*, and the Sloop *Britannia*, with 7 days provisions, thier Barrack bedding, a few necessaries, and baggage sufficient for ten or 14 days. This Detachment is under the Command of Captain Balfour of the 4th Regiment and is going to some town on the Coast not far distant.

1. *Diary of Frederick Mackenzie Giving a Daily Narrative of His Military Service as an Officer of the Regiment of Royal Welch Fusileers During the Years 1775-1781 in Massachusetts Rhode Island and New York* (Cambridge, 1930), I, 5. In an entry two days later, he stated, "The Detachment which sailed on the 23rd Inst has landed at Marshfield." Cited hereafter as *Mackenzie*. See also "Boyle's Journal of Occurances in Boston, 1759-1778", *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, LXXXV, 6, "Jan. 23 Application being made to General Gage by a Number of the Marshfield Tories for Troops to be stationed there, he this day ordered Drafts from the Regiments to the Number of One hundred Men to be sent thither. About 6 o'Clock in the Afternoon they embarked on board a sloop, and sailed (accompanied by an Armed Schooner) for Marshfield. Capt. Belfour of the 4th. Regt. has the Command."

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 23d. [January, 1775]

This day at 3 oclock P.M. a Detachment of 1 B., 3 S., 4 S., 4 C., 2 D., 100 P., embark'd on board two Vessels, to go to a Place called Marshfield about 30 miles from hence; it is in consequence of about 200 People there having declar'd themselves for Government, for which the People of Plymouth have threat'ned to attack them and force them to their measures, as they sent to the Commr. in Chief to request He wou'd send them some Troops for their protection, and Arms and Ammunition for themselves, both which He has done. Capn. Balfour of the 4th has this Command; we shall now perhaps see whether the Scoundrels will dare put their threats in execution, but I dare say not; they will still be the same as they have hitherto been. Mr. Thomas who lives there has order'd his House to be fitted up for Barracks: it will hold them all, I make no doubt, but they will have a very pleasant time of it, as there are two or three Gentlemen who will be as civil to 'em as they can; indeed it will be for their own sakes, a motive that will carry a Man further than anything I know.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 23.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

No 13.

My Lord I have the honour to enclose to your Lordship, the account of produce exported from this province, by the *Betsey* Captain Lofthouse . . .

There can be no doubt of the success of this province. The articles suitable to the climate and soil, are of the most valuable sort. They are such as may be of the greatest advantage to England. We only want inhabitants, my Lord, and a little industry.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect &c.

St Augustine 23d Janry 75

Pat. Tonyn

Inclosure

An Accot of Indico & other Commodities, of the Growth and Manufacture of East Florida in the Year 1774, And transmitted from the port of St Augustine to Great Britain Vizt

p the Brig *Betsey*, Alvara Lofthouse Masr for London Decemr 24: 1774.

1 Qr Cask, 2 Chests & 3 Cags of Indico from Mr Taylors. Plantation Wt.	636.
3 Boxes of Do made at the plantation of Mr Fatio.	279-
10 Casks Do . . . Do of Mr Oswald.	1180-
25 Casks Do . . . Do of Govr Grant.	5460-
2 Casks Do . . . Do of Mr Mclean.	233-
6 Boxes Do . . . Do of Mrs Box.	261-
3 Casks & 2 Boxes Do of Mr Tucker.	466-
1 Cask Do . . . Do of Mr Elliott.	153-
5 Casks & 1 Box Do . . . Do of Mr Strachey.	828-
3 Casks & 3 Boxes Do . . . Do of Mr Gray.	663. -
7 Casks Do . . . Do of Governor Tonym.	976. -
9 Casks Do . . . Do of Mr Russell.	1549-
6 Casks & 5 Boxes Do . . . Do of Lieutt Govr Moultrie.	1800-
4 Casks Do . . . Do of Mr Morris.	856-
1 Cask Do . . . Do of Mr Levett.	251-
1 hhd 2 Barrs & 1 Cag Do . . . Do of Mr Payne.	852-
4 Casks Do . . . Do of Mr Moncrief.	704-
11 Casks & 1 Box Do . . . Do of Lord Egmont.	2094-
4 Boxes Do . . . Do of Mr Ashby.	248-
1 Cask Do . . . Do of Mr Potts.	110-
3 Casks Do . . . Do of Mr Macdougall decd.	312-
7 Casks Do . . . Do of Doctr Turnbull.	1633-
Totall, 1 Hhd: 105 Casks, 2 Chests, 25 Boxes & 4 Cags of Indico Contg 21544 Nt.	

p 22 Affidavits -

88 Pine Plank for Ships Decks from 25 to 27 feet in Lenth & Two Inches & a Quarter Thick from the Plantation of Mr Holmes for a Sample -

12 Pine Plank abt 14 feet long 2¼ Inches Thick } from Mr Shorts Mill

80 Pine Sheathing Boards.

25 Cedar Plank

88 bbs Tar made by Willm Mills -

1 Cask Madder Roots from the Plantation of Mr Elliott

5 Bags Cotton. Do of Mr Tucker -

2 Pipes & 1 Puncheon Orange Juice -

45 Hides -

p the Schooner *Charmg Betsey*, Willm Wilson Masr for Savannah in Georgia the 10 Jany 1775 not to be landed but Transhipt on board some Vessel going from thence to London or some part of Great Britain

8 Boxes of Indico made at the plantation of Mr Berresford

2.y. 575 -

Custom House St Augustine January the 23d 1775

John Holmes

Deputy Collr

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/555, LC Transcript.

24 Jan.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO PETER VANDERVOORT & Co ¹

[Extract]

New London January 24th 1775.

Gentlemen I Recieved your 13th p Capt Chappel also of the 18th by post came to hand. I have now by the Sloop *Macaroni*, Shipt a Cargo of Melasses wich is very Good hope you'l git 2s for it. You must certainly send me Two hundred half Joaneses and Fifty barrels, of Super Fine Flower att least. I shall send the Sloop to the West Indias as Soon as she Returns, & beg you'l dispatch her as Soon as you Can. . . . I wrote you by the Post that I had sum Good Sugar & Coffee wich I will send down when you think thay Can come Safe what Premium must I pay on the *Macaroni* Against the Danger of the Seas & Seizures from this to the West Indias with Liberty to go to Severall Ports until we Can git our Cargoe. . . . I am Gentlemen

Nath^{el} Shaw Jun^r

P.S. send me two Pieces of Ticklinburg. have sent 35 Hhds Melasses

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

25 Jan.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN ¹

[Baltimore] 25 Janry 1775

I wrote to you the 21st Inst to which Refer. I have not Yet got a Vessel for [James] Forde, but have some hopes of Getting one soon. the *Hope* is Full save 150 bals. which I hope to get in for her to Sail on Sunday I have not drawn a bill yet and only 60 Hhds on board on freight 50 bbls Bread 50 Do Flour 50 Hhds Seed & 1500 bushels wheat for the owner. the rest for our Selves. which will go to G[eorge] D[arley]. and I shall draw on him for the Amt and if in your power to sell part of the whole for Cost I would have You do it, if the purchaser will take up the bills as will Ease G.D. and I assure you from the Quantity that is gone I have a bad Opinion of the sale. Prices as in my last. I shall write you soon by Sutter

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

WOOLSEY AND SALMON TO FOUR MERCANTILE FIRMS IN IRELAND ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] Janry 25, 1775

Thos Beatson & Co - Wm & Jno Brown

Jno & Thos Andrews - Jno Henderson Esqrs.

. . . our harbour has Continued open all this Winter so that we have not had A Ship detained one day & we are well Satisfyed that there never was so much Wheat & Flour Ship'd any one Winter as there was this & Chiefly for England &

Ireland but mostly for England, as our Roads have been very bad these four Weeks past, on Which Acct Produce has been kept back from Market, we think when the[y] get better that Flour will Fall Considerably in the Price tho we think Wheat will not be much lower this Season unless there come Accts of low Markets in Europe . . . No doubt Ere this you have seen the Transactions of our General Congress, we cannot with Certainty say What will be the Consequence but we think the resolves will be carried into Execution indeed under the present notion of the Majority of the People we would not attempt or wish any Friend to Attempt[t] The infringement of Any Article.² In this Province & Virginia the People are forming themselves into Companys & learning their Exercise we wish that Matters were Settled as we think it would be of great Benefit to all

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. The Continental Association, passed by the First Continental Congress, which, in part, prohibited importation of British goods into America after December 1, 1774.

26 Jan.

JOSIAH MARTIN, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

No Carolina, New Bern, Janry 26th 1775.

My Lord, I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship that being detained at New York by repeated returns of illness and afterwards by disappointment of a vessel I had engaged to bring me hither until the season became too rigorous to hazard my return to my station on the uncertainty of a sea voyage at such a time of the year, I set out by Land on the 7th of December and arrived in this Province on the 9th instant and at this Town on the 15th . . .

In this Province as in all the others to the Northward Committees have been chosen by the people to carry into execution the measures of the General Congress.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, IX, 1114–1116.

27 Jan.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

Boston January 27th 1775

(No 23)

We have Information often from the Country that the Towns in this Province become more divided, notwithstanding the Endeavours used to keep up their Enthousiasm; and the Tyranny and Oppressive Acts exercised against Persons deemed Friends of Government, has driven them in Several Places to combine together for their Mutual Defence. Where the Majority in a Township has become averse to their Measures, the Faction has employed their Adherents in Neighbouring Towns to join and form Bodys sufficient to force them by Numbers to sign Recantations, which has been attended generally with Violence and ill Usage. The Town of Marshfield with part of that of Scituate having been lately under Terrors of this kind, from the Threats of their Neighbours, for having formed some Association amongst themselves, applied to me for Protection; and I have sent a Detachment of one hundred Men to their Relief. I inclose Your Lordship a Copy of their Petition to me on this head,² and it is the first Instance

of an Application to Government for assistance, which the Faction has ever tried to persuade the People they would never obtain, but be left to themselves.

1. PKO, Colonial Office, Class 5/92.

2. See petition of January 20, 1775.

28 Jan.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1775

Providence, January 28.

The Friends of Government (so called) at Marshfield, having applied to his Excellency General [Thomas] Gage for a military Force to protect them, we hear 120 Soldiers, with four Officers, were sent from Boston for that Purpose a few Days since.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO ROBINSON & SANDWITH, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] the 28 Janr 1775

. . . we now Inclose you bill of Loading. and Invoice for what we Shipped for yr Accts on board the Brig *Hope* ² Amt one thousand and thirty two pounds 4s 2d Currency. to your Debit we also inclose you Disbursements on the Vessel Amt to your Debt One Hundred & Sixteen pounds 6s 6d Currency. and Likewise your Acct Courent. . . . We hope our Behaviour in the present business will Institute us to a Continuance of your friendship. and be Assur'd we done all in our Power for your Interist. And took every Method in our power to give your Vessel dispatch, and we must say that Capt [George] Robinson give us all the Assistance in his power. for which we are thankful. as we are Sensible that Many Masters would have Detained the Vessel much longer that he has been here merely by the difference of the Assistance he gave as to perhaps what the[y] would have done at this Season

We find the best Seasons for Purchasing Wheat is October & November & the beginning of Decemr pritty good for both wheat & Flour. And April & May is the two best Months to Sell Servants & next to them June, October & the Beginning of November for the Sale of Servants. these Circumstances we mention in Case you find it hereafter to your Advantage to do business this way.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. The *Hope* cleared on January 21, for Dublin, with a cargo of 200 hogsheads of flaxseed, 100 barrels of wheat meal, 100 barrels of rye meal, 1300 bushels of wheat, 300 barrels of flour, 100 barrels of bread, eight casks of beeswax, and 5000 staves and headings, Md.Port of Entry Books, 1745-1775, MdHS.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA ¹

[Wilmington] Saturday, January 28th. 1775

Mr. W. Campbell and Mr. John McDonnel reported sundry dry goods imported by them in the Brigantine *Carolina*, Packet, Malcolm McNeil, Commander and delivered up their invoices to the committee, to have the said goods disposed of agreeable to the resolves of the General Congress.

Ordered, That the said Goods be advertized to be sold at public vendue, at 11 o'clock, on Monday, the 30th inst.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, IX, 1118.

29 Jan. (Sunday)

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] the 29th Janr 1775

I Refer you to many letters I have wrote both you and G[eorge] Darley lately. this goes by Capt [George] Robinson who sales this day if the Winds permit. I Refer you to a Coppy of all the letters I have wrote Robinson & Sandwith which I now Inclose you. by which you will see how I have transacted their business & hope to their Satisfaction. I have Shipped on our own Acct 11 £78 Currency which I have Consigned to G.D. and drawn on him for 439.17.2 Sterl . . . I Refer to G.D. for what I have said about the bill on him. and also about the Servants. I make no doubt of Yr Being [in] Dublin on the Arrival of this Vessell. and as I see no probabillity of you getting here soon you have better send me a power to Sell you[r] House. I have not wrote to [James] Ford yet about the Wheat as I have not yet got a Vessel and am much Affraid I will not get any however I shall do all in my Power to get one. . . . I have wrote to all our Corrispondence by this Conveyance Save the Dro[g]heda people . . . Expect a Sloop from Old Titcomb ² every day from Falmouth . . . I have now inclosed you a list of all the Cargo on board the Brig *Hope*. perhaps the Owners may think that the freight I Procured should not be Recond in the Quantity we were to put on board, but of that you may Easy Satisfy them that precuring it without Expence to them is Equal Shipping besides I shipped 45 Hhds of the Seed, and sold it when on board. if you send any more Vessels out on the Same footing indeavor to let What we Ship on our own Acct go into the Hands of the Owners, if Good men, on their Agreeing to pay our Bills to the Amt of two thirds of the Value we Ship. that is in Case G.D. finds is inconvenient so to do it will be to our Advantage if You Settle with Vickers, Wheat 7/ a 7/2 Expected lower as the most of the Vessels are loaded. Indeed you never Seen so many Vessels here as was this Winter at one time & most of them Learge.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Benjamin Titcomb, of the town of Falmouth in the Province of Maine.

30 Jan.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 30th. [January 1775]

To day orders were given for fourteen days salt provision to be embark'd for the Detachment at Marshfield; we hear from thence that everything is very quiet.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 24.

New York Gazette, Monday, January 30, 1775

New-York, January 30.

We hear from Boston, that Capt. [Tyrringham] How[e], Commander of the *Cruizer* Sloop, is appointed to the Command of his Majesty's Ship *Glasgow*, vice Captain [William] Maltby, dismissed; Mr. [Francis] Parry, of the *Preston*, succeeds to the *Cruizer*, and Mr. Grenville¹ is appointed Lieutenant to her.

1. William Fulk Grenville.

31 Jan.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER¹

[Boston] 31st. [January, 1775]

Yesterday a Ship arrived at Marblehead which brought the King's Speech; the Whigs look very black upon it, but pretend to say it is the very thing they wished.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 24.

1 Feb.

THOMAS B. CHANDLER TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N.¹

(Copy)

Sir I think it my Duty to inform You of a piece of Intelligence I received last Evening from a Person of the strictest Integrity and Veracity, who resides in the Eastern part of Connecticut, and who Although a firm Friend to Government has been persuaded and indeed obliged to act such part in Training a Number of Men in the Indian way, as to gain the Confidence of the *Sons of Liberty*. He tells me that a Plot is certainly formed for destroying his Majesty's Ship of which You have the Command; and that the Leaders of the Expedition are appointed, but he knows not who they are. The Method for executing it is to be this, the Passage Boats to Providence often come close to your Ship, it seems, as they pass the Harbour, A proper Opportunity is to be Watched, when 100 Men properly Armed are to be concealed in the Hold, the Packett is to come alongside the Man of War, and they are to rise at Once and take Possession of the Ship. How far this is practicable I am unable to judge, but of this I am persuaded, that no project is too hazardous or too wicked for some of the Rebellious Fanaticks of New England to attempt. You will be kind enough not to make use of my Name at present in this Affair, You are undoubtedly a Stranger to my Character But Although I am not personally acquainted in Rhode Island, on Enquiry You will find many Persons who can give some Account of me.

I am/ Sr. [&c.]

Elizh Town New Jersey february 1st 1775

Tho^s B. Chandler²

1. PRO, Admiralty I/485, LC Transcript.

2. Anglican clergyman and loyalist rector of St. John's Church, Elizabethtown, N.J.

WILLIAM LEWIS, PURSER OF H.M.S. *Rose* TO CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN ¹

Sir,

Rose, 1st February, 1775

The Provisions I have already demanded should be glad to be sent on board as soon as convenient. The Bread is the last wanted and of that only 8000 lbs. as we have a Quantity of Marine Slops stowed in the Bread Room is the reason we can't take so much as I proposed: suppose the best part may come this week if the weather permits. Be pleas'd to send an Invoice with them. pray taste the Butter for we have not a Bitt on board fitt to eat for ourselves. my Health will not permitt me to stirr out of the Ship yet, but I pray God it won't be long first, when you may be assured of the first Visit from Your &c.

Wm. Lewis

We shall compleat to three Months very soon in March to be fitt for Sea. Be so kind to send by my Boy 3 pds. Tea. hope Mrs. Champlin and Family are well. Let us know when we may expect the provisions by the Bearer. no Beef is wanted now. I suppose the same allowance of Callavances as of Pease allowed to the Men.

1. W. C. Ford, ed., *Commerce of Rhode Island, 1726-1800* (Boston, 1915), II, 4, 5. Hereafter cited as Ford, *Commerce of Rhode Island*.

MAJOR ADAM STEPHEN TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

[Frederick County, Virginia] February 1, 1775

This moment I am informed that the Assembly is prorogued till May ² — Confusion worse Confounded; I wish for the encouragement of the Soldiers, that you would meet in Provincial Congress, and order an emission of Bills of Credit for their payment. I am sorry that, Lord Dunmore may depend on it, the Militia will never obey his orders again.

If the country has a mind to secure useful men, it is absolutely necessary to contrive some method to pay the common men, if the Officers and Provisions should lie over; let us be firm, and the gates of hell cannot prevail against us. A handful of men in Canada, six broken Regiments from France, withstood, for five years, all the force of British Fleets and Armies from home, and fifteen or twenty thousand Americans every campaign. They gained several victories over us, and chance had a great hand in their reduction at last. What can we do, if united? We only want a Navy to give law to the world, and we have it in our power to get it.

1. Lee Papers, UVL. Stephen (ca. 1725-1791) was a Scotch physician who had served in the French and Indian War.

2. Lord Dunmore, after several delays, had, in January, prorogued the Virginia Assembly, which was to sit February 2, 1775.

GEORGE BRUERE, GOVERNOR OF BERMUDA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

No 15

Bermuda feby the 1st 1775

My Lord The General Assembly have met and Proceeded to Business, and they have passed several Bills, which I shall transmit to Your Lordship for His Majestys Confirmation, as soon as such Bills can be transcribed, and I can meet with an opportunity of Conveyance.

In Answer to the last Clause in Your Lordships letter No Six, I must Apologize, if the propositions Contained in my letter No 11, were imperfectly or loosely Stated.

I mean not to misrepresent the People, or to Exaggerate their behaviour in any Shape, by mentioning their former behaviour to my Predecessors, as well as their irregular behaviour, at any time since my Arrival.

I have no private Views, I mean only to do my Duty diligently, as His Majestys Servant, and Strict Justice to the People.

but I thought it my Duty, to represent to His Majesty that it is Necessary, that a Company of Soldiers Should be quartered in these Islands, or that a Sloop of War should be Stationed or directed to Cruise, or look in at some convenient opportunity in order to prevent any Illicit Trade from foreign Ports, or other irregularities, as these People will not, nor dare not, inform against each other.

I likewise represented, that a Requisition from His Majesty to provide for the Annual Contingencys of Government, and the Necessary Repairs of the fortifications; I was in hopes would meet with the desired Effect, by the Assemblys Compliance if Your Lordship should think proper, to Recommend to His Majesty, to make any such Demand.

the Schooner *Hope*, His Majestys Sloop of War, commanded by Lieutenant [George] Dawson, was drove by a Gale of Wind, off the Coast of North America and perhaps may be reported to be missing. I have the pleasure to inform Your Lordship, that the Schooner is Safe, in the Harbour at the West End of Bermuda, repairing some little damage received.² And I purpose to send this letter to be forwarded by Lieutenant Dawson.

I have the honor to be My Lord [&c.]

George Jas Bruere ³

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 37/36.

2. Vice Admiral Graves expressed apprehensions to Philip Stephens on February 20, that the *Hope*, which had sailed from Boston on December 24, 1774, bound for Rhode Island, had been lost at sea. She arrived at Boston on February 28, 1775, Graves's Conduct, I, 41, 51, 52, Mass HS Transcript.

3. George James Bruere (d. 1780), was an old soldier and a veteran of the battle of Culloden. He became Governor of Bermuda in 1764 and ruled continually until his death.

2 Feb.MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA ¹

[Extract]

[Wilmington] Thursday, Feb 2d, 1775.

William Campbell's goods were set up at vandue and sold for	£760	00	0
Amount of his Invoice	754	11	0

£005 09 0

John Slingsby's goods sold for sterling	118	05	0
Amount of his invoice	117	18	3
	<hr/>		
	£000	6	9
To be received from W.C. & J.S.	005	15	9 ²

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, mIX, 1120. See also December 10, 1774, and January 28, 1775.

2. Saunders' subtraction has been corrected from £006 5 9.

3 Feb.

JOHN PATTERSON AND ZACHARIAH HOOD TO THE COLLECTOR AND CONTROLLER OF HIS MAJESTY'S CUSTOMS AT NEWPORT¹

Gentlemen, On Wednesday the first Instant the Tide Surveyor of this Port boarded within four Miles of this Town a Topsail Schooner name unknown, the Masters name (supposed to be) Campbell who reported from Casco Bay. soon after the Tide Surveyor had boarded the said Schooner the Master ordered his people to weigh Anchor and sailed down the River, declaring he would go to St. Eustatia and carry the Tide Surveyor and people, consisting of four Boatmen, with him. next day the Schooner was seen sixty miles down the River with the Kings Boat at her Stern; since which we have not heard of them. we have full information that the above Schooner was loaded with Contraband Goods, and have reason to conclude they consist of Tea and War-like Stores from Holland. We therefore think it our duty to give you the earliest intelligence of this Vessel, lest she should attempt to land her Cargo in your Port. The above Schooner is deep waisted, with two small Ports on each side of the Waist, brown bottom and her Quarters painted light blue. if such a Vessel should arrive in your Port, we request you will be so kind as to let us know it. We are, &c.

John Patterson, D. Coll'r
Zach. Hood, Compt.

Custom House, Philadelphia 3 February 1775

1. Ford, ed., *Commerce of Rhode Island*, II, 5.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA¹

[Wilmington] Friday, February 3rd, 1775.

John M'Donnel's goods were sold at vendue, For sterling

To Wm. Purviance	£725	13	06
Amount of his invoice	£717	13	04
	<hr/>		
To be received of Wm. P	£008	00	02

William Campbell, having delivered his invoice to the committee, at this meeting, his salt was put at public vendue, and sold

For	£225	10	00
Amount of his Invoice	218	08	04
	<hr/>		
To be paid by Wm C. Sher	£007	01	08 ²

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, IX, 1122. See also January 28, 1775.

2. Saunders' subtraction has been corrected from £003 01 08.

4 Feb.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO BENJAMIN TITCOMB, FALMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] the 4 Febr 1775

Your Esteemed favour of the 27th of Decemr & 4th January are now before us and Contents Noted . . .

Your Sloop is now discharged but your soon [*sic!* son] ² thinks we had not better be in a hurry to purchase as he wants to hear from you first—and also as Flour is high, and is Expected lower, if the Roads will get good. therefore we hope that either he or us will Soon hear from you . . . we shall endeavour to get your Sloop loaded and if you do not send bills in time we shall draw on You for the Amt . . .

Our G.W. wrote you formerly very fully about a Vessel for our Trade but for fear you may have forgot we will now repait to Say it theres a probability of trade being kept Open between this town and Yours. And you think you Could Manage all ways to have a Vessel Loaded here by us we will agree to take (the one half) but would Rather take the whole (of a new Vessell from five to Seven) Hundred barrells at a Reasonable price say at first Cost and allow you a Commission. We will give you our bond for the money and pay you with the freights and Commission as she Arrives, you shall have liberty to fill her up with goods always from your place freight free to this, if Consigned to us, on the Sale of which you shall pay three & three fourths P Ct and on her load back you shall pay the Common freight & the same Commission and if you Send bills to load here, we must have a Commission for selling them, we will pay the Wages and make her a free bottom.

We think this is nearly the same proposal that our G.W. formerly made you, and have no Reason to wish to hold take the whole. Reather than half only that it will prevent any Confusion in our Accts hereafter. We hear that the Kings speech to parliament is Come in Declaring his American Subjects in a State of Rebellion & Beggin the Assistance of his parliament to bring them to their duty. we wish it may be false, but are fearful it is true, and we really dread the Consequences that may follow all over this Continent.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Joseph Titcomb, master of the sloop *Cumberland*, from Falmouth, in the Province of Maine.

6 Feb.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] Feby 6th [1775]

The *Lively* was ordered to lie in Marblehead Harbour a safer place at this Season than Salem Road.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 50, MassHS Transcript.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1775

Newport, February 6.

Last Saturday [February 3] Capt. Manchester arrived here from London, but last from Salem, and was treated very rudely by the officer and people from the *Rose* man of war, who went on board his vessel, and insisted on going into the hold among his hemp with a light.

7 Feb.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] Feby 7th 1775

Annexed you have Copy of what I wrote you the 29th Janry to which be Referd, Since then have Recvd yours of the 16th and 25th November and note the Contents it is not in my power in this paper to Answer you fully. I have not been able to get a Vessel to ship a Grean of Wheat for ford,² and as the Schooner will not be with you till may³ perhaps you Could get a Vessel to Bring out the Convicts &c. and if Fords should be Complated have liberty to send her Elsewhere. I am glad there is a Vessel Coming out for some part of the Order (was she here now I could have her loaded) but you will see ere this by the 10th Article of our Congress⁴ that I have Reason to tremble about the Salt Titcombs Sloop is here⁵ But we shall not get much by her however a little helps its unfortunate I can not get a Vessel, as wheat is plenty Wheat 6/10 Some thinks it will fall but I think not. Flour 17/ Expected down if the Roads were good. We have had no winter a yet. Ex 60 dull and Expected down

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. James Forde, merchant of Drogheda, Ireland.

3. The schooner *Industry*, which sailed January 9 for Antigua.

4. The Tenth Article of the Continental Association, forbidding imports from Great Britain, Ireland and the British West Indies after December 1, 1774.

5. Sloop *Cumberland*, Joseph Titcomb, master, from Falmouth, Province of Maine.

8 Feb.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 8th. [February, 1775]

A few days ago the Congress at Cambridge had the assurance to vote Adml. Greaves a Traitor to his country and voted also to petition the King that He wou'd relieve him from this Station and dismiss him the service; all this was in conse-

quence of his having pressed several Men for something or other the Committee had done to him; the Adml. wants to burn their Town, and it is with difficulty the Genl. can prevent him; they certainly deserve it for their insolence.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 24.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH, MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Wednesday 8t [February, 1775]

A Council – All present except [Daniel] Horsmanden & [Charles] Apthorpe
 Lt Govr [Cadwallader Colden] asked what he should do on a Scotch Ships being driven from the Port ² – We got him to state his Case & Question – Board shy – Clerk wrote something – He after finding us shy retired to state his Querie – He returned & left us at [John] Watts's Request suggested by me – We kept him out till 2 P.M. from 11 A.M. – I would not concur – They gave their Opinion in Writing & ordered Clerk to read it – I then declared my opinion – After which Watts said the Reason why they were not for mine, was because they thought the Govt too weak to Enquire &c. – I said not too weak to inquire tho' I believed we should not differ after Enquiry, but that depended on Facts – That our Minutes should if were agt Vigorous Measures shew Reason of it – I asked the Govr if he thought we were too weak to inquire – He said he would not say so – On withdrawing I gave him a Note of my Advice in Writing.

That his Honor command the Mayor & all proper Officers to afford necessary Protection to the Capt his Crew and the People under his Care; and that his Honor direct an Enquiry into the truth of the Matters suggested to the Council for the further Consideration of the Board.

The opinion of the Majority was nothing more in Substance than to direct Mr [James] Montigue the Capt of the Man of War to go to the Scotch Ship & offer assistance to the Capt – No others urged to his Aid – No Enquiry into his Distress. Colden's Design was to be inactive & cast Blame on the Council – They were caught in the Snare, & yet I warn'd them repeatedly – urging that if the Govr had asked rightly he should have ordered examinations to be laid before us, & then put the Question of Expediency as to prosecutions, & himself joined in declaring the Weakness of Govt.

1. William H. W. Sabine, ed., *Historical Memoirs from 16 March 1763 to 9 July 1776 of William Smith, Historian of the Province of New York, Member of the Governor's Council and last Chief Justice of That Province under the Crown* (New York, 1956) pp. 209, 210, from the original in the New York Public Library. Hereafter cited as Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*.
2. The ship *James*, Capt. Watson, which arrived at Sandy Hook on February 2, 1775, from Glasgow, with a cargo of coal and some dry goods.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES
MONTAGU, COMMANDING ¹

February 1775 Moored abreast of the Town of New York
Wednesday 8 at 4 P M sent the Master with the Long bt & Pinnace Man'd &
Arm'd down the River after a Ship that was cast off from the
Wharf by a Mobb ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

2. The ship *James*, Captain Watson.

FRANCIS WELSH TO THE PHILADELPHIA CUSTOM HOUSE OFFICERS ¹

Gentlemen:

Philadelphia, February 8th, 1775.

According to your Orders, on Wednesday the 1st Instant, I proceeded down the River in the small Boat, with four Boat men, and one Tidesman; coming up with Gloucester Point, I went on board the Schooner *Isabella*, where I found one John Ritchey, who called himself the Mate of the Vessel, with five more Persons. I desired to know where he came from. He told me he came from Portsmouth, New England, and that he had nothing in but Ballast. I desired that I might search his Vessel; his Answer was I should not, as the Captain was not on board. I then ordered the People to open the Hatches and search the Vessel; upon which he directly took out a Pistol and swore the first Man that offered to open the Hatches, he would blow him to Hell. About five o'clock the same day, one Matthew Strong, whom I found was a Pilot, desired that I would let our boat put him on Shore. My answer was, that I should not let the boat go from alongside. They then hoisted out their own Boat, and put him on Shore, which was about three miles from Town. I then went down into the Cabbins with said Richey. He told me that the Vessel and Cargo belonged to Captain David Campbell; that he was sole Owner, and what was on board was all he was worth in the world. I then desired him to tell me where they were from. He told me from Dunkirk in France, and was loaded with dry Goods. I then searched under the Cabbins, where I found a parcel of Keggs, which he told me was Geneva, which I found afterwards was true, and likewise about thirty Pounds of Tea, done up in Bundles. I then asked him if there was anything else in the cabbins; he then shewed me one Trunk of Goods, that belonged to the Captain, and another that belonged to a Passenger. I then sent Mr. Powell to you. About eight or nine o'Clock in the Evening, Captain Campbell, with the Pilot and two Gentlemen from Town, came on board, and ordered the Anchor up immediately, and said he was bound to St. Eustatia. Soon after the Gentlemen went away. About an hour after there came another Boat, with three more Gentlemen, unknown to me, desiring that I would not pursue the Vessel, for it would ruin the Captain. They then presented me 25 Guineas, and said they would give me more on Shore. I told them that I would not accept any Money, but that I would do my Duty as an Officer as long as it was in my power. They then went away, the Vessel being under Sail going down the River. About two o'clock in the Morning, on the second Instant, I seized the vessel in the King's name. I then told the Pilot to take charge of her in the King's Name, and if he carried her away he must stand by the Consequences, for she was the King's Vessel. I then ordered one of our People to take the Helm,

and demanded of the Pilot to take her up to Town. Upon that Captain Campbell said the King never paid for her. He then put a Pistol to the Pilot's head, and swore by the eternal God if he did not carry her down, and not run her ashore, he would put him to Death. The next tide of ebb, we got down to Chester and came to Anchor. I then went ashore, and Captain Campbell with me, to get something to eat, for he had nothing on board but Bread. I then enquired if there was any Justice in that Place. I was informed there was. I waited on Messrs. Francis Richardson and Henry Graham, the only two in the Place, and demanded their Assistance in behalf of the King. Mr. Richardson was sick, and Mr. Graham said he had no Business to go on Board any Vessel. I then waited on Mr. Vernon, a Sheriff, who told me he would go and get more help, and assist me. He went away and I never saw him any more. I went on board again without any Assistance. They then weighed anchor, and went down 'till they came to New-Castle, and then came to anchor again, as the tide would not serve them any further, which was about seven o'clock in the Evening. I went on shore with two of my People, and left two on board, and waited on Mr. Montgomery, the Collector, and Mr. Maurice, Comptroller, and acquainted them that I was Tide Surveyor of the Port of Philadelphia, and that I had seized a Vessel from France, and they had taken her away from me, and was going to carry her off, and I desired them to give me some Assistance. They answered they could not, for the Commissioners would not allow them any Men. I told them I wanted only their presence, and I would save the Vessel. The Collector said he would go if the Comptroller would. The Comptroller asked whether I wanted him to go? I told him I did. He then said he would not go. I then demanded of him in the King's Name, and as an Officer of the Customs to assist me in holding this vessel. He went into his House and left me. Mr. Montgomery, the Collector, then said he could not go himself, but would get me a pair of Pistols, which he did. I went on board again. As soon as they found I could not get help, they said it was all their own. They then weighed Anchor, and carried us about five Miles from the Cape, when Captain Ritchey ordered us into the Boat, and that without Delay, or he would put us to Death; so we were obliged to get into the Boat, and they cast off, which was about one or two o'clock in the Morning, although I begged them for God's sake to let us stay 'till Daylight. After about three hours' rowing we got on Shore, and was taken up the next Day, about three o'clock in the Afternoon, by Captain Allen, and brought up to town.

I am &c.

Francis Welsh

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records* (Harrisburg, 1852), X, 230, 232. Hereafter cited as *Pa. Col. Rec.*

9 Feb.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N. TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Sir Inclosed is A Copy of a Letter I received Yesterday: The Gentleman who writes it I understand is a Man of Character, and by his Intelligence You may

further judge of the Disposition of the People in this Country ² – however I hope in God, to make them pay dear for their frolick, should they attempt it.

I am Sir, [&c.]

Rose, Rhode Island Feby. 9th. 1775

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.
2. The enclosure was Thomas B. Chandler's letter of February 1, 1775.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH, MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF NEW YORK ¹

A Council at [New York] 9 oc am Thursday 9t Feby 1775

Present Lt Govr [Cadwallader Colden] [Daniel] Horsmanden [John] Watts [Roger] Morris [William] Smith [Hugh] Wallace [Henry] White [William] Axtell [John Harris] Cruger [James] Jauncey

The Govr laid before us Capt James Montigue's Letter of this Day in substance that he had put Men on Board the Ship – That the Capt was not there – That the Mate ask'd no aid – That a Sloop was close to her with arm'd Men – That he waited further Comds – While debating Capt Montigue attended – said he had no applica[tion] – The Govr said he had none – this Minuted – All advised that if the Capt ask'd it, he should bring the Ship up & give others necessary Assistance – Council unwilling to give Advice. Govr tho' pushed by Morris did not produce his Letter to the Capt—

In the Evening the Ship made to this Port from below Kennedy's Island – The Sloop came up – At Dusk an uproar at the Coffee House – The Capt of the Scotch Ship amidst the Mob some of whom now appeared to be armed – They dispersed as soon as they ship'd him in a Boat for his own Ship but they put him on Board the *King Fisher* Man of War –

1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, 210.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU, COMMANDING ¹

February 1775 Moored abreast of the Town of New York
Wednesday 9 at 4 A M returned the Master with the Boats and brought the Ship up abreast the Town

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

New York Journal, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1775

New York, Feb. 9.

The Ship *James*, Capt. Watson, which arrived from Scotland within the Hook at 9 o'Clock in the Morning, the second inst. has neither landed her cargo, nor entered, as she did not arrive in the Time allowed by the Association of the Congress for importing Goods from Great Britain or Ireland, &c. She has been at Anchor since Saturday last [February 4] in our Bay, accompanied with a boat, on board which, is a Sub Committee ¹ to observe her Conduct. The Spars and other Necessaries which she wants for her Voyage, are provided, and the Owners

and Consignees of her Cargo have signed the proper Papers to enable the Captain to depart, which we understand will be on Friday next.

1. The subcommittee was appointed by the recently created New York Committee of Sixty, to watch the conduct of all vessels arriving after February 1, 1775, the last day set by the Continental Association, to permit the entry of goods from the British Isles, which had been shipped prior to December 1, 1774.

10 Feb.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH, MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF NEW YORK ¹

Friday Morning [February 10] he ² came ashore & went to the Lt Govr – While at Legislative Council we expected to be called, but were not – Such a Spirit as appear'd last Night struck Terror & now every Body blamed the Capt for not being gone – Oliver De Lancey came down to the Coffee House, & said to Ph. Livingston & Francis Lewis pointing to the Scotch ship *What does that damn'd Rascal come up here again for? Why don't he quit the Port?* John De Lancey was also active in declaring that the Fellow was not solicited to stay by the Govr., adding that he was present, when he applied for Protection to him this morning – He went on Board at the Request of the Buchannans (Merchants) urged by the Populace –

1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, 210.

2. Captain Watson, of the ship *James*.

CHARLES CARROLL TO A LONDON CORRESPONDENT ¹

[Extract]

Feby 10, 1775

[Carrollton, Md.]

We have the Kings Speech to his Parliament, The Addresses, and the Lords Protest, we observe both Houses re-echoed the Speech with out Knowing the Kings information to be true if we may believe the protesting Lords, and by that complaisance of theirs, we see that like obedient Spaniels they were ready to leap over the Stack. The speech threatens, threats make no impression. By Letters we understand that all Trade will be prohibited, and all our Ports as effectually Stopped as Boston, Time will shew whether England or the Colonies will first complain of the measure if the Contest be of any duration; Manufactures will be solidly established among us, an Event of all others the most desireable for a Country groaning under the pressure of a heavy debt incurred by the importation of foreign manufactures and luxuries.

I most earnestly wish a re-establishment of that Harmony which formerly subsisted between these Colonies and the Mother Country, and without the restoration of which neither will prosper; for if we should be obliged to yield to superior force, which I think will not be the Case, what Benefits can Great Britain expect to derive from Colonies awed for the present into sullen silence, and watching the very first favourable occasion to throw off a forced Subjection.

1. Carroll Papers, MdHS. Charles Carroll of Carrollton [1737–1832] Maryland planter and member of Committee of Safety of that Province.

11 Feb.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

[Boston] 11th [February, 1775]

The *Diana* now returned from North River by the Admirals Order and was sent on the 11th to Philadelphia for such money as the Collector of the Customs at that port should ship on board her, and was to call at Rhode Island in her way back and there to take up the white shorts, Stockings, Camp and Tent Equipage, left by the *Hind* for the Battalion of Marines at Boston.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 50, 51, MassHS Transcript.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH, MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF
NEW YORK¹

. . . and when weighing Anchor the next Day [February 11] the Lt Govr forbid his² sailing without a Clearance from the Customs – the Capt of the Man of war³ was then sought for by [Isaac] Sears & 20 men, but being found by Buchannan said he had orders for the Ships Departure & to morrow Sunday 12th is fixd for it wind permitting –

Upon the whole [Cadwallader] Colden wanted to get the blame cast upon the Council – They were caught except me – By the 2d Order they recovered themselves a little – Then Colden negotiated with the Capt without us, fearing to deal with us and dreading the Populace – I alone am clear, for Colden should have ordered Enquiries, – tho' the Board made it no Part of their advice. It was therefore his design to do nothing, & yet cast the Blame upon his Council.

1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, 210.

2. Captain Watson, of the ship *James*.

3. Captain James Montagu, of H.M.S. *Kingsfisher*.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, FEB. 11 [1775]”¹

A curious circumstance happened here the other day, respecting a vessel from Dunkirk, having on board East India and other dry goods. Five customhouse officers went on board, with an intention to seize her; but the Captain immediately set sail, and carried them as far as the Capes, where he set them on shore, then returned, and landed his cargo.²

1. Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, March 3, 1775.

2. See Patterson and Hood to the Newport Collector, February 3, 1775 and Francis Welsh to the Philadelphia Custom House Officers, February 8, 1775.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 11 Febr'y 1775

I tremble for the Salt that you say is Coming out, and am fearful it must be hove overboard if it arrives, as it will not pay a freight home, and you no doubt Ere this must see that I have Reason to tremble about it, however you may Assure Mr [James] Ford[e] I will do all in my power for his Interest . . . if the Salt comes & Should get liberty to land and Sell it (which I do not Expect) it will hardly be in my power to Allow the proceeds to go in Purchasing the Cargo

as it is now dull, and you must well know that I have hardly any Command of Cash, . . . if the vessel was hear clear of the Damnd Salt I could load her without drawing a Bill untill Loaded but how it will be when she arrives God Knows. . . . You se[e] how Necessary it is for you to be on that side for a while, not only to get Business but to know peoples Circumstances.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

13 Feb.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S BRIG *Gaspee*, LIEUT. WILLIAM HUNTER, COMMANDING ¹

February 1775 Moor'd in Falmouth Harbor Casco Bay
Mondy 13th Fair Weare wt a frost P M Four of our People Vizt Joseph Cox, James Craven, James Varner and John Lutey took the Boat from alongside, we fired at them, but having no boat to pursue them they got on shore and Deserted we afterwards heard one of them (John Lutey) was shot.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/381.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY AND COMMITTEE OF SUPPLIES ¹

[Watertown] Monday, February 13, 1775

Voted that the Committee of Supplies be desired to purchase all the Powder they can, upon the best terms they can.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1775

Newport, February 13.

One day last week arrived here a sloop from Nantucket, which, on her passage, was fired upon three times, off Seconet-point, by an officer in a boat belonging to the sloop *Swan*, James Ayscough commander: The third time he fired, the shot went within six inches of Mr. Starbuck's and Mr. Fish's bodies; they went along side of the *Swan*; and informed Capt. Ayscough of the behaviour of his officer, who, according to custom, laid the blame on his officer, and took no further notice of the matter.

New York Gazette, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1775

New-York, February 13.

The Ship *James*, Capt. Watson, arrived at Sandy-Hook the 2d Instant, from Glasgow, with Coals, and a few Dry Goods on board; but as she came into Port after the Time limited by the Congress for us to continue our Trade with Great Britain,¹ she has received some Necessaries, and Yesterday proceeded for the Island of Jamaica, with all her Cargo.

1. Importation of goods from Great Britain, under the Continental Association, after December 1, 1774.

14 Feb.

MAJOR JOHN PITCAIRN, R.M., TO LORD SANDWICH ¹

[Extract]

Boston, 14th February 1775.

I think many of the people of this country begin to think they have gone too far. The behaviour of the New York people will have a very good effect: the General thinks he sees it already, and all the friends to Government are of opinion that vigorous measures at present would soon put an end to this rebellion. The deluded people are made believe that they are invincible. A very impudent publication, lately came out, asserts that they are an over-match for all Europe in their own country. When this army is ordered to act against them, they will soon be convinced that they are very insignificant when opposed to regular troops. I have sent your Lordship enclosed with this the newspaper with the late resolves of the Provincial Congress, impudent enough they are.

Your Lordship will observe by the return I have sent to the Board that I have but a small battalion on shore: there are still fifty of the supernumeraries that were ordered out on board ship, this hurts the appearance of the battalion greatly, as they are the best of our men and ten of them belong to our light infantry company. I have spoken often to the Admiral about this, but to no effect; it was much against his inclinations that he landed any of us. This distresses me greatly, as I have a great desire to convince everybody of the utility of keeping a large body of marines, who are capable of acting either by sea or land as the public service may require. One observation I beg leave to make to your Lordship at this place, which is that I am a good deal hurt and mortified to find the marines so much shorter than the men are in the regiments – the men of the Plymouth division extremely short indeed. I wish the standard was raised: no marine, in my humble opinion, ought to be taken who is under five foot six inches, and even not at that size if above twenty years of age.

I often march out with our battalion six or seven miles into the country. The people swear at us sometimes, but that does us no harm. I often wish to have orders to march to Cambridge and seize those impudent rascals that have the assurance to make such resolves. They sometimes do not know what to think of us; for we march into the town where they are all assembled, but we have no orders to do what I wish to do, and what I think may easily be done, I mean to seize them all and send them to England.

I am &c. John Pitcairn

1. G. R. Barnes and J. H. Owen, eds., *The Private Papers of John, Earl of Sandwich First Lord of the Admiralty 1771–1782* (London, 1932), vol. I, 57–59. Hereafter cited as Barnes and Owen, eds., *Sandwich Papers*.

New York Journal, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1775

New York, Feb. 14.

To the PRINTER.

Mr. [James] Rivington having in his last paper promised, that in a future one, would be published, a narrative of the conduct of Capt. Watson, of the ship *James*, lately from Glasgow; and as I conceive, from the general tenor of the publications in

his paper, that if therein the narrative should appear, it will give very little satisfaction to any of the parties concerned, or to the public, Therefore I desire you will, in your next, insert the following full and authentic account of that whole affair, as related by those who knew the truth of every particular.

A. B.

On Thursday the 2d instant arrived here from Glasgow, the ship *James*, Capt. Watson, with a cargo of coal and dry goods, but as she did not arrive within the time prescribed by the 10th article of the association of the continental congress, a strict watch was constantly kept, by some of the sub committee, and a number of inhabitants, to prevent the landing of any goods, in a clandestine manner; and the Captain was requested to procure such necessities, as he might stand in need of, and immediately quit the port; with this request he seemed rather unwilling to comply, and was encouraged to hope, that his cargo would be landed, from the assurances of a number of ministerial tools, who promised to support him; for which purpose they employed a few vagrants, to go on board the ship (which then lay in the harbour) and bring the colours on shore, with a view of raising a posse, to assist in landing the goods; but the banditti that were collected for this purpose, were soon suppressed by the inhabitants, who are for supporting the association, and who began to assemble in great numbers; upon which the Captain conceiving the ship to be in danger, he sent the Mate on shore, requesting assistance, to get her under sail, as the seamen refused to do their duty; this request being complied with, they immediately got her under way, and fell down about 4 miles below the city, where she remained (attended by a boat, with a member of the committee, and some of the townsmen on board) till last Thursday night [February 9], when she was brought into the harbour again, by an officer, and a number of men belonging to his Majesty's ship *King-Fisher*; which ship it is supposed, came down from Turtle Bay, expressly for the purpose of protecting her, and intimidating the inhabitants: As soon as it was known that the ship was coming up again, the people were greatly exasperated, began to assemble together in great numbers, and immediately went to the Captain's lodgings, seized him, and after conducting him through many of the principal streets, attended by a prodigious concourse of people, he was without suffering the least hurt or injury put on board a boat, with some hands to row him, and sent off: His ship then lying at anchor, two miles below the town, he went on board the man of war, which lay in the harbour, where his own ship did not arrive till the next morning, when she came to anchor under the cannon of the *King-Fisher*. In this situation matters remained, till Saturday morning [February 11], when they began to unmoor the ship, intending to get under sail, but was prevented by the Lieutenant of the man of war, who hailed the ship, and demanded if they had a clearance, and on being answered in the negative, he ordered them not to unmoor; this obstruction greatly exasperated a number of people, that were collecting together to see her get under sail, who went immediately in quest of the Captain of the *King fisher*,¹ to know by what authority he detained the ship, but they could not meet with him; he was however soon after waited upon, by one of the gentlemen to whom she was addressed; and on being informed of the Lieutenant's conduct, and asked his reasons for detaining her, he replied that he had nothing

to do with her, and immediately gave orders to the Lieutenant to let her pass; she accordingly got under sail the next morning about 10 o'clock, accompanied by a boat, with two of the committee, and a number of inhabitants on board; which boat (after taking out the pilot) left her at 2 o'clock P.M. about a league to the southward of Sandy Hook, with a fresh gale, and at half past 4 o'clock P.M. she was out of sight — As every artifice has been used, and a variety of manoeuvres put in practice (by a set of ministerial hirlings) in order to get the cargo of the above mentioned ship landed, it must give real pleasure to every lover of his country, to observe, that the good people of this city, are determined to support the association of the general congress, at all events.

1. Captain James Montagu, R.N.

15 Feb.

LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *St. John*¹

February 1775 Anchored in Savannah harbour
 Wednesday 15 at 6 P M sent David Martin & John Downs on shore by request
 of the Collector to Watch some goods he had seized at 12 o'clock
 a Number Townspeople came down beat the men and threw
 them into the Water and the said Martin was drowned and they
 carried off the Goods —

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

16 Feb.

Massachusetts Spy, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1775

Boston, February 16.

A correspondent has sent the following, viz.

The *Lively* frigate of war, is lately stationed at Marblehead in order to harrass and impress the seafaring inhabitants of that town. It is said to be by order of Admiral [Samuel] Greaves in consequence of the misconduct of his purser, John Williams, who had two boxes consigned him in the ship *Champion*, Capt. [Gustavus] Fellows, which arrived there from Great-Britain between the first of December last, and July [*sic* January] instant. These packages, agreeable to the continental association, ought to have been reshipped, or delivered to the committee of inspection for sale, or to be stored during the continuance of the association; but instead thereof Williams utterly refused to comply with the association, and with some other inferior officers of the navy demanded the boxes, alledging that they contained candles for Admiral Greaves; the committee as well as the town, thought the doings of the Continent too important to be thus treated by a common purser, and the matter was so regulated that the candles were detained, until application was made to the committee in the name of the purser, for selling the same, and the association was fully complied with. for this instance of fidelity in the committee and town, is that community consisting of about seven thousand inhabitants, mostly dependent on trade and navigation, thus arbitrarily treated; which must convince the American colonies, that had they not nobly resolved to maintain and defend their rights and liberties, the most insignificant officers of the

crown would have been authorized and encouraged to insult them. The crew of the *Lively* are not suffered to land by the inhabitants of Marblehead, who seem determined to defend themselves against these unjustifiable proceedings.

MINUTES OF THE ROYAL COUNCIL OF PENNSYLVANIA ¹

At a Council held at Philadelphia, on Thursday, 16th February, 1775: Present the Honourable John Penn, Esquire, Governor, &c., William Logan, James Tilghman, Benjamin Chew, and Edward Shippen, Junior, Esquires.

The Governor acquainted the Board that — Waterhouse, Inspector of his Majesty's Customs, had represented to him that one of the Magistrates and the Sheriff of the County of Chester, had refused their Aid and Assistance to the Custom House Officers of this Port, in preventing the rescue of a seizure lately made by them in the River Delaware, of the Schooner *Isabella*, John Ritchey, Master, with contraband Goods from Dunkirk, and had requested his Honour would call these civil Officers to an Account for neglect of Duty, and likewise issue a Proclamation on the occasion; and as a foundation for such Complaint, Mr. Waterhouse had put into his Honour's Hands, the Copy of a Letter from Francis Welch, a Tide Surveyor for this Port to the Custom House Officers, which was laid before the Board, and follows in these words, viz:

[Here is inserted Francis Welsh's letter of February 8, 1775]

Copy of a Register "Schooner *Isabella*, John Ritchey, Master, 30 Tons, built at Boston, 1773. David Campbell sole owner, dated London, October 6, 1774."

The Governor having thereupon desired the Opinion and advice of the Board, the Council, on due consideration of the Matter, gave it as their opinion that the River Delaware not being included within the body of any County of this Province, The Jurisdiction of the County of Chester does not extend into the River Delaware, and consequently that the Magistrates and Sheriff of that County could not legally afford them any such Assistance as was required of them, and that, therefore, it would be improper to call those Magistrates and Sheriff to Account for any Misbehaviour; and further, that as the Vessel and her Crew were gone to Sea, the issuing of any Proclamation upon this Occasion would be useless and improper.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 230-232.

17 Feb.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW YORK, FEB. 17 [1775]" ¹

Yesterday arrived the ship *Beulah*, Capt. [William M.] Bussel, in nine weeks from London; she is come too at the Watering place. Mr. Robert Murry, the owner, has summoned all those that have goods on board, to meet him this evening, to confer together, I suppose about sending her away. —

1. *Pennsylvania Ledger*, February 25, 1775.

18 Feb.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS, LONDON¹

[Extract]

[Charleston] 18th february 1775

p *Russia Merchant* Capt Clarkson

Georgia has not fully acceded to the general Continental Association, therefore our provincial Committee have Resolved to cut off all dealing & intercourse with the Inhabitants, except only such as may be unavoidable by persons who reside here & have plantations, or debts due to them, in that province . . .

Since the 1st Inst we have had three importations of Merchandize in so many Vessels – potatoes from Bristol – Coals from Dunbar – Coals Salt Slate & from Bristol – the whole adjudged by the Committee to come within the 10th Article of the Continental Association & therefore not to be landed in this or any other of the associate Colonies – the burthen of the last will fall principally on our bad friend Neufville of Bristol, but his Brother who is a good friend will participate the loss.

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–1775, SCHS.

19 Feb. (Sunday)

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S BRIG *Gaspee*, LIEUT. WILLIAM HUNTER,
COMMANDING¹

February 1775

At Single Anchor in Nantasket Road

Sunday 19

at 9 [A M] Came to wt the Bt. Br in Nantasket Road in 7 fms Georges Island East and Gallop Island N B E Dr off Shore $\frac{3}{4}$ of a Mile – Applied for a Court Martial on myself and Mr. Ryall to Justify our Conduct in the late accident on the 13th Inst. at 5 P M the Boat returned with orders from the Admiral to suffer no Boat to go on Shore but on Public Service

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/381.

“A PRIVATE LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN AT BOSTON, DATED FEB. 19, 1775”¹

The Admiral issued press-warrants at Marblehead on account of the detention of some wax-candles imported for his own use, and which were seized by the Committee of Inspection. At first the people of Marblehead had determined on rescuing any pressed men; accordingly, after Mr. [William] Lechmere, Lieut. of the *Lively*, had pressed two hands from on board a vessel coming in, on his return he was surrounded by eight or ten whale-boats manned and armed; he called to them at their peril to keep off, which they did at a distance of two boats lengths; they then asked him if he had pressed any men out of the vessel he had boarded, which he answered in the affirmative; they bid him deliver them up without making any resistance; on his refusal, they pointed their pieces into his boat, and Mr. L—— ordered his men to do the same; one of the impressed men took this opportunity and leaped overboard; Mr. Lechmere snapped his piece

at the man, which missed fire, and he was taken up by the whale-boats; the other man was immediately secured, and without further opposition carried on board the *Lively*. From this time they continued pressing without molestation, when the Select-men of Marblehead seeing their trade distressed, obliged the Committee of Inspection to write to Admiral [Samuel] Graves, in the most penitential manner, for having disobliged him, and laid the blame entirely on their Chairman, which the Admiral took not the least notice of. The Select-men were obliged to wait on him, and promised to return the candles, and pay all costs and damages, and there should never be in future any cause of complaint. Lo! their prayers were heard, and the press-warrants ordered to be withdrawn, as soon as they had satisfied the purser, whom one of the Committee waited upon, and paid him betwixt four and five pounds to defray the expence he had been at in going to demand them, and told him the candles were at Mr.— house, and would be delivered on his sending for them; this the purser refused, and insisted on their being laid within the threshold of his door, which was punctually complied with.

1. *Morning Chronicle and London Advertiser*, April 8, 1775.

PETER R. LIVINGSTON TO ROBERT LIVINGSTON, JR.¹

[Extract]

New York 19 Feby: 1775

Yesterday the *Beaulagh* Murry's Ship² arrived here from London loaded with goods. She lays at the Watering place a boat of Observation is alongside of her with about 20 hands all armed to see that no goods are taken out of.³ the Owners of good had a meeting last night to consult what to do. the People in general are determined she shall go back

1. FDRL. Peter R. Livingston (1737–1794) was a member of the New York Provincial Congress and Robert Livingston, Jr. was at that time Recorder of the City of New York.
2. Robert and John Murray, merchants of New York.
3. "17 Feby 1775. Last night the *Beulah* arrived at the Watering Place, and the Populace sent down a Boat with armed men to watch her & prevent her Landing Goods." Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, 210.

20 Feb.

MINUTES OF A TOWN MEETING IN MARSHFIELD,¹ MASSACHUSETTS

At a legal Town Meeting held in Marshfield, 20th February, 1775. Doctor ISAAC WINSLOW, Moderator at said Meeting: A Vote was put to know the Mind of the Town, whether they will adhere to, and abide by, the Resolves and Recommendations of the Continental and Provincial Congresses, or any illegal Assemblies whatsoever; and it passed in the Negative. 2dly. The Vote was put to know the Mind of the Town, whether they will Return their Thanks to General [Thomas] Gage and Admiral [Samuel] Greaves, for their ready and kind Interposition, Assistance and Protection from further Insults and Abuses with which we are continually threatened, and it passed in the Affirmative. 3dly. They Voted that a Committee be chosen, to draw up and send the same to said General Gage, and Admiral Greaves, the said Committee consisting of 24 Persons.

A true Copy Attest. NEH. THOMAS, Town-Clerk.

N.B. The above Town Meeting was held agreeable to an Act of Parliament, entitled, "An Act for the better regulating of the Province of Massachusetts-Bay, &c." passed in the last Session of the late Parliament.

1. *Boston Evening-Post*, March 6, 1775.

INHABITANTS OF MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS, TO GENERAL
THOMAS GAGE ¹

(Copy)

To his Excellency Thomas Gage Esqr. Capt. General and Governor in Chief in and over his Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay &c. –

We the inhabitants of Marshfield, in legal town meeting assembled the 20th day of February AD. 1775, beg leave to return your Excellency our most grateful acknowledgements for your seasonable assistance and protection, in sending a detachment of his Majesty's troops to secure and defend the loyal people of this Town, from the threats and violence of an infatuated and misguided people. –

We assure your Excellency (whatever may have been surmised to contrary) that there were sufficient grounds and reasons for making application; and we are fully convinced that this movement has preserved and promoted, not only the peace and tranquility of this Town in particular, but of the county in general; owing in a great degree to the prudence, firmness, and good conduct of Capt [Nesbitt] Balfour who, (with pleasure as well as justice we say it) has done every thing in his power, to obtain those laudable ends & purposes. –

Thankfully we acknowledge our obligation to our Sovereign, for his great goodness and wisdom, in placing at the head of affairs in this Province, in this day of difficulty, confusion, and discord, a Gentleman of your Excellency's well known humanity, moderation, capacity and intrepidity; and shall constantly implore the supreme Governor of the Universe, to assist and direct you in the faithful discharge, of the various functions of your exalted station, with fidelity to your King, with honor to yourself, and with happiness to the people committed to your charge. –

With pleasure we embrace this opportunity, of expressing our utter detestation and abhorrence, of all assemblies and combinations of men (by whatever specious names they may call themselves) who have, or shall rebelliously attempt, to alter or oppose the wise constitution and government of great Britain. –

Furthermore we beg leave to inform your Excellency, that in the most critical and dangerous times, we have always manifested and preserved our loyalty to the King, and obedience to his laws; carefully avoiding all unconstitutional covenants and engagements whatsoever, that might warp us from our duty to God, our King and country; and as we are determined to persevere in the same course, we flatter ourselves, that our endeavours and exertions, will meet with our most gracious Sovereign's approbation, as well as your Excellency's; and that under his and your gentle and humane government, and kind protection, we may peace-

ably and quietly set under our vines and figtrees, and have none to molest or make us afraid.

Abijah White
Isaac Winslow
Ephraim Little
John Tilden
Willm Stevens
Elisha Foord
Seth Bryant
Amos Rogers

John Baker
Daniel White
Cornelius White
Nathl Phillips
Seth Ewell
Paul White
Thomas Little
Lemuel Little

Elisha Sharman
Simeon Keen
Abraham Walker
Willm Macomber
Asa Thomas
Abijah Thomas
Job Winslow
Abner Wright
Committee

1. Gage Papers, CL.

INHABITANTS OF MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS, TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

To the Honourable Samuel Graves, Esq; Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and Commander in Chief of all his Majesty's Navy in North America, &c.

We, the inhabitants of Marshfield, in Town Meeting legally assembled, the 20th of February, A.D. 1775, penetrated with the highest sense of gratitude, present our sincere and hearty thanks to you Sir, for your ready compliance, with a request of a number of our inhabitants in ordering an armed vessel to protect and defend us from the lawless insults and abuses, with which we are threatened by numbers of seditious and evil minded people, for no other reason (that we can conceive) but our loyalty to the best of kings and firm adherence to the laws of government. With hearts replete with gratitude, we contemplate the paternal care and goodness of our most gracious sovereign, in the appointment of a gentleman to command his navy in America, at this critical juncture, whose duty, inclination, and abilities, so happily coincide to answer the good purposes of his department.

Permit us to acquaint your honour, that we have always endeavoured to comport ourselves, and regulate our conduct agreeable to the laws of England and this country; that we have not been guilty of any riots or illegal assemblies, or adopted or subscribed any unconstitutional resolves, covenants, or combinations whatsoever but have constantly and uniformly borne our testimony against such measures and proceedings: That it is our serious intention, and firm resolution to respect the English constitution; and demean ourselves like true loyal and obedient subjects, by doing which we apprehend we shall entitle ourselves, to the continued protection of our most gracious King, your Honor, and every friend to peace and good government.

1. *Boston Evening Post*, March 13, 1775.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY ¹

[Extract]

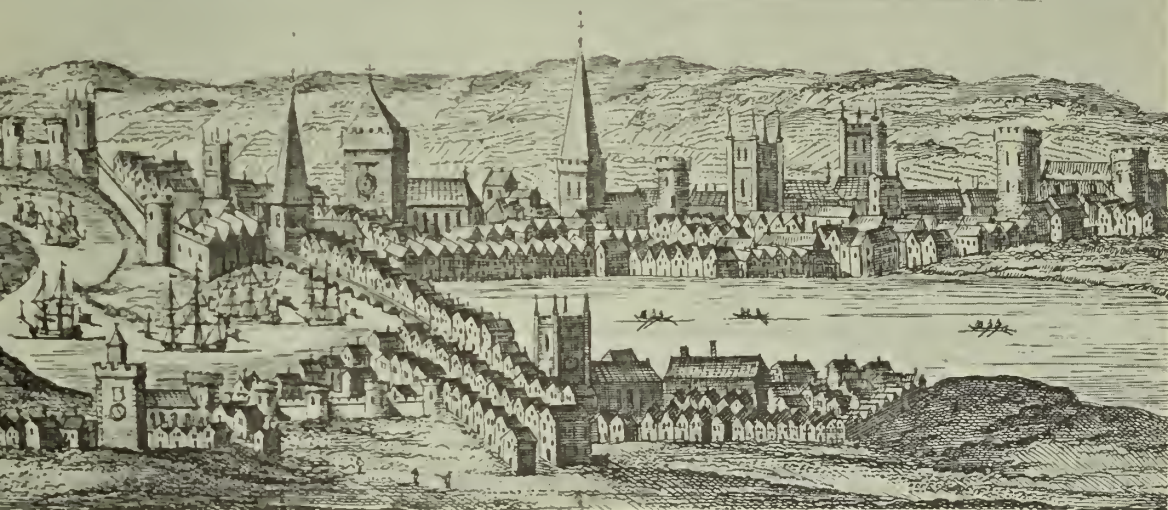
Preston Boston 20th February 1775

Sir On the 25th of last December Lieut [George] Dawson Commander of the *Hope* Schooner sailed from hence with Orders to look into Swansea in this province, and upon not finding there any illicit Traders, or Vessels with Arms

LONDON



BRISTOLL



(Top) London, 1778. (Bottom) Bristol, 1778.

and Ammunition contrary to Law, to proceed to Rhode Island, and put himself under the Command of Captain [James] Wallace of the *Rose*, who had my directions to employ the *Hope* in guarding one of the passages to the Town of Providence. With the *Hope* sailed a small Schooner Tender (belonging to Lieut. Dawson) who got safe to Newport. The Officer in her Reports that he parted Company with the *Hope* among the Shoals in a very hard Snow Storm, which began the second day after they sailed from Boston; And that being thus separated he was obliged to run at all hazards in a very strong Gale and thick Snow; Fortunately the Tender drawing little Water got clear over, tho' frequently in imminent Danger among the Breakers and in very shoal Water a considerable time. I have until now declined mentioning my apprehensions for the fate of Lieut. Dawson, flattering myself the *Hope* might have providentially escaped; but not hearing the least account of her since she parted from her Tender, I conclude she is irrecoverably lost.

The hired Sloop that I sent to the assistance of the *Canceaux's* Tender *Spinckes* [*Sphynx*], driven on shore at Cape Anne as mentioned in my Letter of the 8th instant brought that Vessel round to Boston very much damaged in her Hull; her Rudder, Cables, Anchors and some other Stores lost, two of her Sails blown to pieces, and her rigging greatly damaged. I have had her repaired and new fitted, and she is now again ready for service.

The Northerly winds have blown lately at full and change and occasioned such low Spring Tides that we have not yet been able to get the *Glasgow* upon the Ways. In the mean time she is receiving such Repairs as in her present Condition can be given to her; I inclose a Copy of the Damage she has sustained, so far as the Carpenters have been able to examine her.

The Ships with me at Boston are beginning to be sickly, they have lately lost several men by deaths, and as desertions happen, notwithstanding the utmost care is taken to prevent it, I have ordered the *Scarborough* at Piscataqua, and the *Lively* at Marblehead, to raise men for the Squadron, and have directed Captain [Thomas] Bishop of the *Lively* to press thirty Seamen, if that Number of Volunteers cannot be procured. Necessity obliges me, contrary to my inclination, to use this method to man the Kings Ships, and as it shall be done with all possible moderation, though at a place extremely violent in supporting and carrying into execution the Resolutions and Directions of the Continental Congress respecting the Non-importation Agreement, I trust their Lordships will not disapprove thereof.

Upon application to the General and myself from the Inhabitants of the Town of Marshfield and its Neighbourhood in this province for Assistance and protection, apprehending themselves to be in danger from the violent threatenings of a considerable Body of People ill affected to his Majesty's Government, the General sent them a Detachment from the Army, part of which at his Excellencys request went in the *Diana* Schooner, whom, after remaining eight days in North River, I have ordered to Philadelphia at the desire of the board of Customs to bring from thence a considerable Sum of Money belonging to His Majesty's Revenue.

I transmit a Copy of a Letter and its inclosure received from Captain [James] Wallace of his Majesty's Ship *Rose*;² the Scheme therein mentioned has not

yet been attempted, probably they suspect that Captain Wallace is apprized of their intentions; but, let that be as it may, I have cautioned him to be upon his Guard against a set of Fanaticks, who will without scruple basely destroy the Kings People or Property whenever it can be effected with impunity or little Risque to themselves. With regard to the disposition of his Majesty's Squadron under my Command it remains nearly the same as when I wrote my last Letter dated the 15th of January I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 51-54, MassHS Transcript.
2. Wallace's letter of February 9, 1775, and Thomas B. Chandler's of February 1, 1775, appear under those dates.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1775

Newport, February 20.

This harbour, and Fogland ferry, is very narrowly watched, by the *Rose* frigate, and the *Swan* sloop.

MURRAY, SANSOM & COMPANY AND WILLIAM M. BUSSELL TO THE
NEW YORK GENERAL COMMITTEE ¹

Gentlemen We being the sole owners of the Ship *Buelah* from London do propose (with your approbation) that the Ship be regularly entered at the Custom House, In which case we pledge to you, our word and honour that no part of the Goods shall be Landed in this Province but the same shall be forthwith re-shipped and sent off in some other Bottom. If it shall be thought more satisfactory we consent that any Number of your Body be on Board the Ship while here to see that the above engagement is strictly observed This proposition we think must appear reasonable as being not inconsistent with the Resolution of the [Continental] Congress and therefore we are lead to hope it will meet not only with your approbation but that of the inhabitants of this City in general. The Congress having been silent as to what Bottom the Goods shall be returned in probably meant to expose the Owners of the Ship and Cargo to as little Inconvenience as possible by leaving that Matter to their Discretion which from the Terms in which their Resolve is Expressed seems evidently to be the Case their Words are – [“] If any Goods Wares or Merchandizes shall be Imported after the first Day of February the same ought forthwith to be sent back again without breaking any of the Packages thereof[”] – This we conceive manifestly declares that the Goods (which are the object of this Resolve) are to be Imported after the first Day of February but as there cannot be a legal Importation without an Entry at the Custom House it follows that such Entry is presupposed and implied in their Resolutions and the more especially as they direct that the Packages shall be sent back unopened for as opening the Packages without an Entry would make the Ship Liable to a Seizure. The Congress could hardly have thought such rash conduct in the Owners to be probable and therefore from this prohibitory Clause they must have considered the Goods as in a Scituation in which the Packages might be Lawfully opened which plainly includes the Idea of a previous entry at the Custom House – By permitting therefore such Entry under the Guards

proposed We think that not only the Letter but the Spirit and Intention of the Resolutions of the Congress will be fully compli'd with.

It has and probably may again be insisted on against this Construction of the Resolve that the first Article of the Association prohibits the Importation of goods from Great Britain &c. after the first Day of December and therefore that it must be absurd to suppose that the Congress could intend an Importation after the first day of February in the sense we contend for as it would imply a Contradiction – Whatever force there may appear to be in this Argument at first View it is entirely taken off by the Explanatory Clause in the Tenth Article which declares that in Case any Merchant Trader or other Persons shall Import Goods after the 1st Day of December and before the first Day of February the same ought forthwith at the Election of the Owners to be either Reshipped or delivered up to the Committee of the County &c. That an Importation in the proper and Legal Sense of the Word is here meant cannot admit of a Doubt since neither of the Alternatives imposed on the Owner of Reshipping or delivering the Goods to the Committee can possibly take place without an actual unloading of the Cargo for which purpose an Entry was absolutely necessary and therefore must have been intended by the Congress As to the objection that proper Evidences cannot be given to the Neighbouring Colonies that the Goods are sent back unless they go in the same Bottom We think it must be effectually removed by having the matter Transacted under the Inspection of some of the Committee in the way we propose. Besides we cannot help observing that the Grand Object of the Congress seems to have been the sending the Goods back and as it must be immaterial in what Vessel they are carried this may well account for their Leaving that Circumstance to the Discretion of the owner – And as we are disposed to comply not only with the Express Words of the Congress but likewise with the very Spirit thereof – We shall therefore think ourselves ill used if we are obliged to carry the goods back in the same Bottom which will be laying a very heavy Burthen on that we and many more believe was not intended by the Congress. We have no objection to your publishing this Letter as we are free the Public should have an opportunity of Judging thereof – We may further inform you that the proprietors of the Goods are quite free that they be Reshipped in the manner here proposed.

Murray, Sansom & Co.
W^m M. Bussell

[New York] Febr'y 20th 1775

1. *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts Relating to the War of the Revolution in the Office of the Secretary of State, Albany, N.Y.* (Albany, 1868), I, 95, 96. Hereafter cited as *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts, N.Y.*

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CADWALLADER COLDEN OF NEW YORK, TO VICE
ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

New York 20th Febr'y 1775

Sir You will perceive from the Public Prints that the Assembly of this Province refuses to adopt the measures of the Congress, & takes the lead towards a reconciliation between Great Britain & her Colonies, Tho this be a true sense of a great

Majority of the people, & of men of the best Fortunes, Yet we have among Us a set of violent Spirits of the lowest Rank, and desperate fortunes, countenanced by a few of superior condition, who lay hold of every occasion to rouse Mob & excite Sedition; On the side of Government are the moderate men, who by all means avoid disorder & Confusion which gives an advantage to the hot heads on the other side. It seems reasonable that the friends of Government should be as much protected, as His Majts more urgent Service will permit; Ever since the last War we have had a Regiment quartered in this place: We have now only 100 men.

The Colonies to the Southward threaten this Colony, & declare they will join the Massachusetts, Tho I cannot believe that there is any other design than to bully. Yet as no man can tell which men in a Phrenzy may do (which seems to prevail over the Continent) it will be no excuse not to be prepared against every Event, especially after it is threatned; Hudsons River must be passed before any body of men can join Massachusetts from the Southward of Ohio. For upwards of one hundred miles above this place there is not less than twenty four feet water in the Channel of that River, as I am informed by a Gentleman who carried a Mastship of Six hundred Tons up that distance last Summer. Now Sir I must leave to your Judgment whether it may be for His Majts Service to send a large Man of War to this port, which can on occasion put two or three hundred men on shore; and to send small Vessels to obstruct the Passage of the River, if it afterwards should be thought expedient.

I am &c.

Cadwallader Colden

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

21 Feb.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT FOR GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Memorandums 21st Feby – [1775]

The Gun Carriages that are making at Charles Town is by one Kinney – a wheel wright but making principally Wheels, for them at present, many have been carted through Cambridge 'tissaid for Worcester –

Gun Carriages are making at Water Town by Mr Curtain – an Irishman, who has fallen out with the Select Men there, as he will not permit them to be taken away untill the Cash is forthcoming. –

Bowman a Smith making Tools at Menotomy.

One Brown who arived last night from Conecticut reports that small Magazines are forming in the several Towns, of Provisions, de guerre et de bouche, but a considerable one at Hartford. –

Horton a Black Smith at Work at Marble Head on Gun Carriages. – went from hence a month since

Gun Carriages making at Salem,

Twelve pieces of Brass Cannon mounted, are att Salem & lodged near the North River, on the back of the Town. – ²

Adams & Cushing³ going shortly to the South to put the people at N. York in a right way, & to bring the Continl Congress to an earlier meeting

Pick Axes in large Quantities making at Mystick by Timothy Newell

Twenty Waggons with Flour has past from Marble Head & Salem through Mystick towards Worcester within these 5 days.—

Adams & Cushings Jaunt Southerly to collect Cash for forming the Military Chest as they cannot procure Implements &c &c bespoke without.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. It was upon this information that Gage sent Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Leslie on the abortive expedition to Salem. See the *Essex Gazette*, February 28, 1775.

3. John and Samuel Adams and Thomas Cushing.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES¹

[Newport] 1775, Feby. 21.

The Ship *James*, Capt Watson, from Glasgow arrived at N. York the second Inst being the day after the time limited by Congress. Great pains were taken by the Tories & Crown Officers to land her goods. The People rose twice, the Tories from 2 to 4 hundred, the Whigs from four to five Thousand — the ship was sent off by the Committee — the Man o' War stopt her — the p[eo]ple asembled a second time and visited the Capt of the Man o' War, the *King Fisher*, and demanded his reason and authority for stopping the vessel — he dismissed the Vessel, and on the 12th Inst (after ten days contest) that ship sailed from N York, "for Jamaica, without ever entering at the Customhouse, or discharging one single package. She was attended to Sandy Hook by a No of Gentn from our Committee, who waited at the Hook, till they lost sight of her. — Every artifice has been used &c a variety of Manouvres put in practice, by a sett of Ministerial hirelings, in order to get the Cargo of the above ship landed".² This is a great defeat, and shows that the disposition of the body of the p[eo]ple, with respect to the public Cause of Liberty, Another Ship is expected there from Europe; the owners of which have given orders at the Hook that she shall not come up, but go off from this Continent.

1. Dr. Ezra Stiles Literary Diary, I, 408, Force Transcript, LC. Hereafter cited as Stiles, LC. Ezra Stiles (1727–95) was a Congressional clergyman and diarist.

2. Stiles here quotes from a letter he had received or seen. For further details of the case of the *James*, see Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, February 8, 9 and 10, 1775.

22 Feb.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*"¹

Feby 1775

Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour

Wednsdy 22

[Little Wind and Calm] P M Seiz'd the sloop *lively* Wm Green Master from St Eustatia, having on board Contraband Goods.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

*Fresh Breezes & Quality W. H. H. Made a Seizure of a Schooner
for Breach of Trade -*

*W. H. H. seized the Schooner lively W. H. H. Master from
Custatia, having on board Contraband Goods.*

MARCH 3. 1775.

T H E

NUMBER 3.

VIRGINIA



GAZETTE.

ALWAYS FOR LIBERTY.

AND THE PUBLICK GOOD.

ALEXANDER PURDIE, PRINTER.

members who were against an inquiry into the measures of the Congress, as preliminary to the approbation of them, have been since forfeited the esteem of their constituents, and are therefore looking for favour from the Crown for themselves and families. Others of them were impudently, from ignorance, and some from fear, being frightened by designating men into an apprehension that the approving the measures of the Congress, as they contained in several resolves, which some called treason, would involve them in the guilt of it. In short, Sir, no virtuous or patriotic man could be expected from a House which had, by its votes, violated the rights of the people, suspended the habeas corpus act, and denied the subject of his right to a trial by a jury, and provided support, and

and faithfully adhered to, till otherwise ordered by this or some other Provincial Congress, or House of Representatives.

A true extract from the minutes.

BENJAMIN LINCOLN, Secretary.

By a courier just arrived from Cambridge, we learn that the Provincial Congress, now sitting there, have appointed a committee to examine into and answer his Majesty's most gracious speech; and to assure him that there is not a prevailing disposition to infringe the laws, as has been maliciously and falsely represented to his Majesty.

Extract of a letter from a Gentleman in London, to his friend in this town, Dec. 9.

"The King's speech, and the addresses, it is agreed on all hands, are not designed in error only, but that they speak what is really intended. But how ever deter-

and have drawn up a very respectable address to the King on the occasion."

WILLIAMSBURG, March 3.

A Caution to the PUBLICK.

BE it known, that his Majesty's armed Schooner MAGDALEN, HENRY COLLINS, Esq; commander, mounting four carriage guns, besides swivels, &c. now lies moored opposite to Burwell's ferry, for the purpose of bringing to and searching all vessels going up and down James river. [Note well! masters and owners, that the King pays no costs or damages in his Admiralty courts, whether your vessels, after seizure and libelling, be condemned or not. These are necessary expenses, which must come out of your pockets; therefore, it will behove you to be on your guard.]

(Top) HMS Cruizer log entry, January 12, 1775. (Middle) HMS Rose log entry, February 23, 1775.

(Bottom) Extract from Purdie's The Virginia Gazette, March 3, 1775.

VICE ADMIRAL WILLIAM PARRY TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir I desire You will please to acquaint the Right Honble, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that on the 14th Instant I returned from visiting the other Islands and found His Majesty's Ship *Hind* here: She arrived the day before from North America.

I have received a Duplicate of your Letter of the 7th September, as also your letter of the 13th October last, enclosing Captain [William] Garnier's Commission for His Majesty's Ship *Hind*, which I have delivered to him. I have likewise received your Letter of the 14th of the same month, enclosing the Gazette with the Order for altering the Uniforms of the Captains and Commanders, which I will take Care to acquaint them with.

Their Lordships Order of the 29th September, directing His Majesty's Ship *Deal Castle* and the *Favorite* Sloop to be sent to England, is likewise received, and I will carefully observe the other part of it, which directs that the Captains shall not exchange their Ships with each other. I have also received Their Lordships Order, dated the 12th October, for my taking His Majesty's Ship *Hind* under Command.

His Majesty's Ship *Deal Castle* and the *Favorite* Sloop are now cruising off the Islands of Grenada and Tobago, and I have, agreeable to Their Lordships Order of the 29th September last before mentioned, given directions for their immediately joining [me] in English Harbour, that the necessary Preparations may be made for their Return to England.

I desire You will please to inform Their Lordships [that] both the Main and Fore Mast of His Majesty's Ship [*Hind*] are found to be sprung, and that I have therefore given [orders] for new Ones to be made, that no time may be lost [in] preparing her for Sea.

Herewith I transmit a Duplicate of my last of 18th September, an Account shewing the State & Condition of His Majesty's Ships under my Command, and another shewing the Disposition of Them.

I am Sir, [&c.]

Will^m Parry

Chatham in English Harbour, Antigua, the 22d February 1775

[Enclosure]

DISPOSITION OF THE SQUADRON UNDER COMMAND OF VICE ADMIRAL PARRY
THE 22D FEBRUARY 1775

Chatham – In English Harbour, preparing to heave down and refit for Sea.

Hind – Do. refitting for Sea, and waiting for new Main and Fore Masts.

Deal Castle – Cruising between the Islands of Tobago, St. Vincent, and Grenada.

Lynx – Stationed between Barbadoes and Tobago (daily expected to join me)

Favorite – Cruising off Tobago

Will^m Parry

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

23 Feb.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S BRIG *Gaspee*, LIEUT. WILLIAM HUNTER,
COMMANDING ¹

February 1775

At Single Anchor in Nantasket Road

Thursdy 23d

P M Came down a Boat from His Majesty's Ship *Preston* with the Provost Martial and an Officer who had Orders from the Admiral to lay Mr Ryall and myself under an Arrest and take the Command of the *Gaspee* which was done; and Orders to attend a Court Martial on board His Majesty's Ship *Somerset* on Monday the 28th Inst at 9 OClock in the Forenoon it being put off till that time on account of the President's Indisposition

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/381.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW YORK, FEB. 23 [1775]" ¹

Since my last the ship *Beulah*, Capt. [William] Bussel, has arrived from London full of goods, the people here are determined the association shall not be violated, the owners and shippers think of sending her to Halifax; she will sail in a few days.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, Monday, February 27, 1775.*New York Journal*, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1775

New York, Feb. 23.

On last Thursday night [February 16], the ship *Beulah*, Captain William M Bussell, arrived at the Watering place, about three leagues from this city, in nine weeks from London – The Pilots, we are informed, were ordered not to bring her up, lest her being in the harbour should give uneasiness to the city. The same night, a sloop with some members of the Sub-committee of Observation and other Citizens on board, went down and anchored near the said ship to observe her conduct, and they will continue there, till she departs – The ship wants a new bowsprit, when she is furnished with this and other necessities for her voyage, she will be dispatched without delay. – She has neither entered nor broke bulk, and we are informed will be ready to sail about Sunday next.

"THE FARMER REFUTED, ETC." BY ALEXANDER HAMILTON ¹

[Extract]

New-York [February 23,] 1775

With respect to the justice of submitting to impositions, on our trade, for the purpose of raising a revenue, to support the [British] Navy, by which it is protected, I answer, that the exclusive regulation of our commerce, for her own advantage, is a sufficient tribute to Great-Britain for protecting it. By this means, a vast accession of wealth is annually thrown into her coffers. . . .

It will be impossible for the ships of Britain, to line the vast extended coast of this continent, in such a manner, as to preclude the admission of foreign aids

and supplies. After every possible precaution against it, we shall still be able to get large quantities of goods from France and Holland. . . .

Great-Britain can never force us to submission, by blocking up our ports; and that the consequences of such a procedure to herself, Ireland and the West-Indies, would be too fatal to admit of it. . . .

A more desirable object, to France and Spain, than the disunion of these colonies from Great-Britain, cannot be imagined. Every dictate of policy and interest would prompt them to forward it, by every possible means. . . .

With respect to Holland, notwithstanding express engagements to the contrary, her merchants, during the last war [Seven Years War], were constantly supplying the French and Spaniards, with military stores, and other things, they had occasion for. The same, or perhaps, more powerful motives, would influence them to assist, us, in a like manner. . . .

1. Syrett, ed., *Hamilton Papers*, vol. I, 81–165.

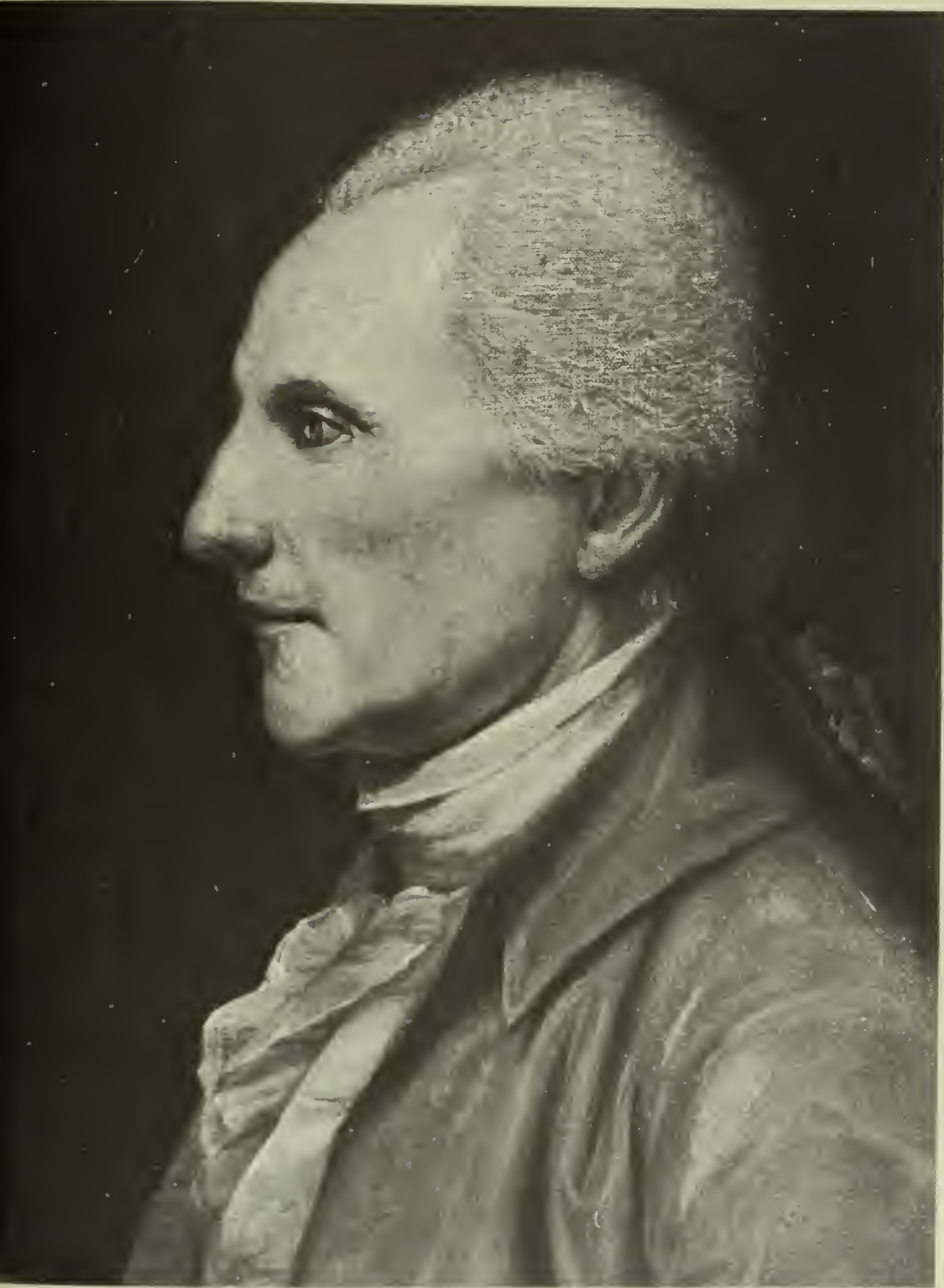
24 Feb.

RICHARD HENRY LEE TO ARTHUR LEE, LONDON ¹

D[ear] A

[Chantilly, Virginia], Feby 24th 1775

All America has received with astonishment and concern the speech to Parliament. The wicked violence of Ministry is so clearly expressed, as to leave no doubt of their fatal determination to ruin both Countries, unless a powerful and timely check is interposed by the Body of the people. A very small corrupted Junto in New York excepted, all No America is now most firmly united and as firmly resolved to defend their liberties ad infinitum against every power on Earth that may attempt to take them away. The most effectual measures are every where taking to secure a sacred observance of the Association – Manufactures go rapidly on, and the means of repelling force by force are universally adopting. The inclosed Address to the Virginia Delegates published a few days since in the Gazette will shew you the spirit of the Frontier Men – This one County of Fincastle can furnish 1000 Rifle Men that for their number make the most formidable light Infantry in the world. The six frontier Counties can produce 6000 of these Men who from their amazing hardihood, their method of living so long in the woods without carrying provisions with them, the exceeding quickness with which they can march to distant parts, and above all the dexterity to which they have arrived in the use of the rifle Gun. Their is not one of these Men who with a distance less than 200 yards or a larger object than an Orange – Every shot is fatal. The Virginia Colony Congress meets the 20th of next month for the appointment of Delegates to the Continental Congress in May next, and for other purposes of public security. The Ministry who are both foolish and wicked, think by depriving us of Assemblies to take away the advantage that results from united and collected counsels. But they are grievously mistaken – In despite of all their machinations, public Councils will be held and public measures adopted for general security. Still we hope that the proceedings of the last Continental Congress when communicated to the people of England will



Richard Henry Lee. By Charles Willson Peale, 1784.

rouse a spirit that proving fatal to an abandoned Ministry may save the whole Empire from the impending destruction. The honorable Colo Lee of Stratford was buried this day, he died the 21st Ultimo after a months painful illness. He is a public loss, and if the Ministry go on filling up these vacancies in the Council with raw boys and hotheaded senseless people, the affairs of Virginia must be in perpetual confusion, altho the present dispute should be accomodated It is absolutely necessary that some grave sensible Men should now be placed there in order to temper the present body.

The pamphlet entitled an Appeal &c is, I think, the best I have read on the subject amidst such a variety of finely reasoned ones

Farewell

P.S. By authentic accounts just come to hand all the Ministerial efforts with New York and the Jersey Governments have failed, both Assemblies have highly approved the proceedings of the Continental Congress, thanked their Delegates and appointed them to represent their respective Colonies in the next May Congress.

From N. York they have lately sent back a Ship from Glasgow with goods that arrived after 1st of Feby scarcely allowing the Vessel time to get fresh provisions.² It is now therefore certain that without a redress of Grievances, G. Britain must prepare to do entirely without the N. American trade, nor will the British Isles in the W. Indies get their usual necessary supplies from the Continent. Georgia has acceded to the Continental Association and we understand Canada will have Delegates in the next Congress. You will oblige me greatly by giving my boys advice and pressing to diligent application as often as you have leisure to do so.³ You never say whether or when you take the Gown and where you propose to practice.⁴

Farewell

1. Lee Papers, UVL. Richard Henry Lee (1732-94) had been a member of the First Continental Congress, and Arthur Lee (1740-1792) was practicing law and politics in London.
2. Ship *James*, Captain Watson.
3. His two sons were at school in England.
4. On May 15, 1775, William Lee wrote to his brother, Thomas Ludwell Lee, "our Br. A (who was called to the Bar last week)", William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

North Carolina Gazette, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1775

Newbern, February 24.

Last week the Court of Vice Admiralty gave a decree against the Vessel lately mentioned in this Paper to have been seized by Capt. [Tyringham] Howe in a sloop of war¹ It appeared she had touched at a Dutch Island and had taken on Board a few Cases of Gin and Kegs of Brandy, and a few Yards of foreign sail Duck, — The Vessel, with her Tackle, Apparel, Furniture and Cargo, was condemned and sold.

1. H.M. Sloop *Cruizer*, whose journal on Tuesday, January 12, 1775, states, "AM Made a seizure of a Schooner for Breach of Trade — " The *Cruizer* at that time was moored in Cape Lookout Harbor. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

25 Feb.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CADWALLADER COLDEN, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK ¹

Sir

Preston at Boston 25 feb. 1775

I am much obliged to you for the letter you did me the Honor to write to me, by Lieut Robertson; and sincerely congratulate you on the very proper behaviour of your Assembly with respect to the Quebec and Boston acts, they were no doubt urged to a very contrary conduct.

Permit me Sir sincerely to wish that their future proceedings may be equally judicious, and that your Honor may experience the high satisfaction to see them lay aside their senseless opposition to their indulgent Mother Country, and Unite in endeavouring to restore Publick Tranquility and a due subjection to the Laws among themselves. It would give me great pleasure to serve Lt. Robertson as he had the honor of your Introduction, but the number of Gentlemen I have with very powerful recommendations leave Me No room to imagine any thing can be done for him while I command on this station – I am with very great respect and esteem Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

1. *The Letters and Papers of Cadwallader Colden* (New York, 1923), VII, 266. Hereafter cited as *Colden Papers*.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1775

Providence, Feb. 25.

The *Rose* Frigate and *Swan* Sloop, with the Tenders, are very vigilant in searching almost every Vessel that arrives in the River. – Three Seizures have been made by them within a few Days past.

26 Feb. (Sunday)

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Lively*, CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP,
COMMANDING ¹

Febry 1775

Moor'd in Marblehd Harbr

Friday 26

Fresh Breezes and fair Weather Anchor'd here the *Sea Venture* Transport from Boston with Troops at ½ past 2 P M they disembark'd at 8 they embark'd at 3 A M [February 27] the Transport sailed.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

2. See *Essex Gazette*, February 28, 1775.

DIARY OF EZRA STILES ¹

On Ldsdy Mornng. 26 ult. the Regt at Castle William of 240 Men embarked on board a Transport on a secret Expedition; and at III P.M. landed (while the Congregation were at Pub. Worship) at Marblehead, & march 5 miles around to Salem to seize some Ordnance &c. Instant notice being sent the pple at Salem

To the *Freeholders, Free-* *men, and Inhabitants, of* the City and County of *New-York.*

GENTLEMEN,

A'S a Report prevails, that the Ship *BEULAH*, is destined for *Halifax*, I have perused the Association of the Congress, in order to satisfy myself, whether her going there, will be conformable to their Intention: I think it will not:—For the Association directs, that “if any Goods, or Merchandizes, shall be imported after the First Day of *February*, the same ought forthwith to be *sent back again*, without breaking any of the Packages thereof.”—Now, the plain and obvious Meaning of the Words “*sent back again*,” are, that the Goods ought to be destined for, or go to the Place from whence they came. And therefore, the sending the *Beulah* to *Halifax*, instead of *London*, will be a Violation of the Association.

This is so clearly the Language of common Sense, that it would be trifling with you, to attempt to adduce Proofs in Support of that Construction. In vain will it be objected, that “*sent back again*,” means no more than that the Goods must go back out of the Port. Had this been the Intention of the Congress, the Association would have expressed it:—Instead of “*sent back again*,” the Words would have been more loose and vague,—“the same ought forthwith” to be sent out of the Port, or exported:—But so far from this, that the Words used “*sent back again*” are so plain and determinate, that not one Man out of a Hundred, the least acquainted with our Language, will hesitate, or differ about those Words, implying the Place from whence a Person, or Thing came.

It may, therefore, not be improper, to put the following **QUERIES**, to the Captain, and Owners, of the Ship, as well as to the Proprietors, and Consignees of her Cargo.

First. Upon Proof being made to the General Committee, that the Ship went to *Halifax*, and there Landed her Cargo, with the Consent of the Captain and Owners &c. will it not be the Committee's Duty to Advertise them?

Second. If this is done, what will be the Consequence to the Captain, Owners, &c? and,

Thirdly. Will the People be passive, when a Violation of the Association is announced to the whole Continent?

New-York. Feb. 25, 1775.

A C I T I Z E N.

removed the Cannon over a Bridge. The Troops under Col. [Alexander] Leslie arrived at the Bridge, which [was] a Draw Bridge not far from the No of young Mr [Thomas] Barnards Meetinghouse. The provincial Col. [Timothy] Pickering mustered between 30 & 40 under Arms on the other side of the Bridge & drew up the Bridge. A vast Multitude was convened, and Alarm Guns fired continually. Col. Leslie findg the Bridge drawn, ordered his Men to face, seeming to intend to fire on those on the other side. The Men did not face, At length he ordered his men to put off two Gundalos – but the Salemites instantly skuttled them. The Soldiers prickt them with Bayonets &c. At this Inst the Rev Mr Barnard jun. stept up to Col. Leslie; complained that his soldiers abused our ppl., told him they wer the Aggressors, & beged him not to fire, for that if he did they would all be cut off. Leslie kept his Troops at the Bridge an hour & half: – At length Col. Leslie pledged his honor that if they would let down the Bridge he would march but thirty rods over it & return without doing any Thing further. The Line was markt, and Col. Pickering with his 40 brave heroes (like Leonidas at Thermopylae) faced the Kings Troops, risked Col. Leslies Honor; the Bridge was let down, Leslie marched over, & while some men were on the Bridge & others on this side, he halted, ordered them to face about, & so they marched back, returned to Marblehead, & embarked that night for Castle William, without the Cannon which they went after. The Country was alarmed, the News flew like Lightening, they marched from Haveril &c and one compa arrived in Arms from Danvers just as the Troops left the Town. Thus inglorious was the Excursion and Retreat of the Kings Troops.

1. *Essex Institute Historical Collections* (Salem 1902), XXXVIII, 336, 337.

NARRATIVE FOUND IN THE FAMILY PAPERS OF MAJOR JOHN PEDRICK ¹

On the 26th February, 1775, General [Thomas] Gage received information that cannon and military stores were to be deposited at Salem and he sent Lieut. Col. [Alexander] Leslie with one hundred and forty soldiers in a transport to seize them; fortunately, they were discovered in the act of landing at Marblehead Neck; a man went around to the church doors with a drum beating "To arms! to Arms!" It was during service. Major [John] Pedrick hastened out and was told that the British had landed on the Neck; at once he understood their object, hastened to his residence, had his parade horse saddled, rode away with the utmost speed, and met a person who said the troops had formed their ranks on Bubier's Plain and were marching on towards Salem. He quickly followed, heard the drum and fife playing Yankee Doodle; when he had so gained upon them he leaped his horse over a wall which brought him to a steep hill leading to Gardner's Mills, which was so steep in descent it was looked upon as a breakneck place and really safest to go down at a gallop. At the bottom of the hill he came upon Col. Leslie, with whom he was well acquainted and who at that moment was in the rear of his troops. They exchanged a military salute and Leslie ordered his men "to file to the right and left and give Major Pedrick the pass." This pass was a narrow wooden bridge over a river which emptied into the sea and near which was a great [grist?]; leaving the bridge, the

river wound around a sharp point of land, so that after a few yards were passed he was concealed from the observation of any one upon the bridge.

Major Pedrick thanked Col. Leslie for his courtesy, passed between the files of soldiers, and while in view of them rode slowly; but, once around the point of land, put spurs to his horse, went to Salem with all speed, stopped at the door of the North Church (it was during the time of service, being Sunday) explained Col. Leslie's object, then dashed down to Spike bridge to have the draw raised so as to prevent the passage of the "Regulars." Rev. Mr. [Thomas] Barnard and others followed as quickly as possible and it was arranged that Mr. Barnard was to remain in charge of it. Major Pedrick said to Mr. Barnard that Col. Leslie would order the draw to be lowered in the "King's name;" that he could reply it was not the "King's" highway, but a private road, and requested him to parley with him and resort to all expedients to delay him until a message should come from Major Pedrick to say that the cannon were safe. Col. Leslie threatened that they would cross the river in boats and was told they would be sunk if it were attempted: as it was, they did destroy a few. The militia assembled and the Regulars were so exasperated that it was with difficulty the gentlemen present prevented bloodshed.

On his return to the bridge, Major Pedrick heard Col. Leslie say that his orders were "to cross the bridge," and he would do it at all hazards. Major Pedrick then requested Mr. Barnard who was on the same side of the bridge with Col. Leslie to say to him that if it were a "point of honor" with him to do it, that the draw should be lowered for him and his men, to cross over and to march so many paces beyond; provided that being accomplished they would return to their place of embarkation. After some consultation with his officers this was agreed to by Col. Leslie, and being done the troops wheeled round and the music played by the band was "The world turned upside down."

Immediately upon Col. Leslie's accepting the terms, Major Pedrick rode a short distance away, as he felt it would be uncourteous to remain and witness his annoyance; as in yielding the pass to him he had missed the opportunity of carrying the object for which he had been sent.²

1. *Essex Institute Historical Collections*, XVII (Salem, 1880), 190-192.

2. Major Pedrick, a native of Marblehead, died in 1780. The account of his participation must have been passed along to a relative, who in committing it to paper later, seems to have confused the British tunes with those used later in the war and at Cornwallis's surrender in 1781.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO CADWALLADER COLDEN, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
OF NEW YORK¹

Sir,

Boston Feby 26th 1775

I have received your's of the 20th Inst with a Letter for the Admiral which I Sealed and forwarded but have not seen him since, to know his Determination upon the subject in Question. I am however of opinion that he will do what you wish him, to do, if I can form any Judgement from Conversations I have had with him of the Propriety of the Measure.

The Conduct of your Assembly gives fresh spirits to the Royalists in this Province, who wait with the greatest Impatience to hear the Fate of the *Buelah*. If she lands her Cargo it will be the means of inducing other Ports in every Province to do the like. We have yet had no Tryal of the kind in this Province, but I think if any ship arrives with a resolute Master that he will carry his Point, particularly at Marblehead; where they have appeared the stoutest and most insolent if you judge of them by their Resolves. But the Committee of Inspection there has been roughly handled lately on account of a seizure, and have acted with more meekness than was expected from them by the Rebel Party. The Admiral has threatened the Town and pressed some of their People, and I have declared I would apprehend them if they presumed to touch any man's Property.

I sincerely pray that New York may continue to pursue the Road she is in, and merit the Distinction of the Royal Province, and the Saviours of America, and that you may live to see the Completion of the good work you have so happily began.

I am with great Respect and Esteem Sir [&c.]

Tho^s Gage

1. *Colden Papers*, VII, 266, 267.

27 Feb.

COURT MARTIAL OF LIEUTENANT WILLIAM HUNTER AND MASTER MALTIS LUCULLUS RYALL ¹

(Copy)

At A Court Martial assembled and held Onboard His Majesty's Ship *Somerset* at Boston in New England the 27th day of February 1775

Present

Edward Le Cras Esqr Senior Captain of His Majs Ships and Vessels at Boston,
President.

Captain Brodk Hartwell
John Macartney

Captain Geo. Vandeput
Jno. Robinson

who being all duly Sworn

The Court in pursuance of an Order from Samuel Graves Esqr Vice Admiral of the Blue and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels employed and to be employed in the River St. Lawrence &c proceeded to try Lieutt William Hunter Commander, and Mr. Maltis Lucullus Ryall Master of his Majesty's Brig *Gaspee* for the death of John Lutey Seaman, late belonging to the said Brig, and the Court having heard all the Evidence and Carefully examined into every Circumstance attending the desertion of the four Seamen with the Brig's Boat; and very naturely weighed and considered the whole are of Opinion that it being proved to the Court, the four Seamen were in the Act of desertion with the King's Boat at Falmouth Harbour in Casco Bay on the 13th of February 1775, Lieutenant Hunter in doing his duty behaved like a good Officer by Firing at them on their refusing to return according to his Orders; and that Mr Maltis Lucullus Ryall the Master of the said Brig is justified in obeying the Lieutenant's Order to fire likewise; The Court do therefore acquit

the said Lieutenant William Hunter and Mr. Maltis Lucullus Ryall of the Murder of the said John Lutey, and they are hereby acquitted accordingly.

E. Le Cras
B. Hartwell

Geo: Vandeput
John Macartney

J. Robinson

G. Gefferina, appointed to execute the Office of Deputy Judge Advocate
A True Copy

G. Gefferina.

[Endorsed] Sentence of a Court martial. In Vice Adml Grave's Letter/dated
4h March 1775.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO THE INHABITANTS OF MARSHFIELD, MASS.¹

The ADMIRAL'S Answer.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of MARSHFIELD.

Gentlemen, The warmth with which you declare your principles of loyalty to your Sovereign and his constitutional government, cannot fail of being grateful to the mind of every lover of his country: And it is much to be wished, that the uniform propriety of your conduct will extend its influence, to the removal of those groundless jealousies, which have unhappily warped the affections of too many of your countrymen from the parent state, and which are now tending to raise violent commotions, and involve in ruin and destruction this unfortunate province.

The approbation you are pleased to express of his Majesty's appointment, at this critical juncture, to the command of his American Fleet, is flattering; and you may be assured that my countenance and support shall never be wanting to protect the friends of the British Government, and reduce to order and submission those who would endeavour to destroy that peace and harmony which it is the end of good legislation to produce.

S. Graves

1. *Boston Evening Post*, February 27, 1775.

28 Feb.

Essex Gazette, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 TO 28, 1775

S a l e m, February 28.

Last Sabbath [February 26] the Peace of the Town was disturbed by the coming of a Regiment of the King's Troops, the Particulars relative to which are as follows. – A Transport arrived at Marblehead, apparently manned as usual. Between two and three o'Clock (as soon as the People had gone to Meeting) the Decks were covered with Soldiers, who having loaded and fixed their Bayonets, landed with great Dispatch; and instantly marched off. Some of the Inhabitants suspecting they were bound to Salem, to seize some Materials there preparing for an Artillery, dispatched several Messengers to inform us of it. These Materials were on the North Side of the North River, and to come at them it was necessary to cross a Bridge, one Part of which was made to draw up, for the Convenience of letting Vessels pass through. The Inhabitants kept a Look-out for the Appearance of the Troops. The Van Guard arrived, and took their Rout down in Town as far as the Long-Wharf; perhaps to decoy the Inhabitants thither, away

from the Place to which the main Body were destined. The main Body arrived soon after and halted a few Minutes by the Town-House. It is said Inquiry was immediately made by some of the Officers for a Half-Brother of Col. [William] Browne, the Mandamus Counsellor.¹ Be this as it may, he was very soon whispering in the Colonel's Ear,² in the Front of the Regiment; and when he parted from the Colonel, the Regiment marched off with a quick Pace, in a direct Course for the North Bridge; just before their Entrance upon which, the Draw-Bridge was pulled up. The Regiment however pushed forward till they came to the Draw-Bridge, not observing (as it seemed) that it was drawn up. The Colonel who led them expressed some Surprise; and then turning about, ordered an Officer to face his Company to a Body of Men standing on a Wharf on the other Side the Draw-Bridge, and fire. One of our Townsmen³ (who had kept along Side the Colonel from the Time he marched from the Town-House) instantly told him he had better not fire, that he had no Right to fire without further Orders, "and if you do fire (said he) you will be all dead Men." The company neither fired nor faced. The Colonel then retired to the Center of his Regiment, assembled his Officers, and held a Consultation: Which being ended, the Colonel advanced a little, and declared he would maintain his Ground, and go over the Bridge before he returned, if it was a Month first. The same Townsman replied, he might stay there as long as he pleased, no Body cared for that. That Half-Brother before mentioned (it is said) made towards the Bridge, but seeing the Draw-Bridge up, says, "It is all over with us." He has since disappeared. Mean while two large Gondolas that lay aground (for it was low-water) were scuttled, lest they should cross the Channel in them. But whilst one Gentleman with his Assistants was scuttling his own Gondola, a Party of about twenty Soldiers jumped into it, and with their Bayonets charged against our unarmed Townsmen (some of whom they pricked) compelled them to quit it; but before this a sufficient Hole had been made in the Bottom. This Attack of the Soldiers, and some other Occurrences, occasioned a little Bickering, but by the Interposition of some of the Inhabitants the Disputes subsided.

At length some Gentlemen asked the Colonel what was his Design in making this Movement, and why he would cross the Bridge? He said he had Orders to cross it, and he would cross it if he lost his Life with the Lives of all his Men. And now (or before) asked why the King's Highway was obstructed? He was told it was not the King's Road, but the Property of the Inhabitants, who had a Right to do what they pleased with it. Finally the Colonel said he must go over; and if the Draw-Bridge were let down so that he might pass, he pledged his Honour he would march not above thirty Rods beyond it, and then immediately return. The Regiment had now been on the Bridge about an Hour and an Half; and every Thing being secured, the Inhabitants directed the Draw-Bridge to be let down. The Regiment immediately passed over, marched a few Rods, returned, and with great Expedition went back again to Marblehead, where they embarked on board the Transport without Delay.

The Regiment brought with them Lanthorns, Hatchets, Pick-Axes, Spades, Hand-Spikes and several Coils of Rope.

When all the Circumstances are considered, there can remain no Doubt that the sole Purpose of this Manoeuvre was to steal away the Artillery Materials be-

fore mentioned. In the first Place the Regiment was taken from the Castle, so that the Inhabitants of Boston might be prevented giving us any Intelligence: The Transport arrived at Marblehead a considerable Time before the Regiment was landed, but the Men were kept snüg under the Hatches: As soon as the Inhabitants of Marblehead had got to Meeting, the Troops landed, and pushed on their March to Salem, and proceeded to the very Spot where the Materials for the Artillery were lodged. But meeting with this sad Rebuff, and finding their Plot was discovered, they then made a Retreat. – 'Tis regretted that an Officer of Colonel Leslie's acknowledged Worth, should be obliged, in Obedience to his Orders, to come upon so pitiful an Errand.

Various Reports were spread abroad respecting the Troops, – the Country was alarmed; and one Company arrived in Arms from Danvers just as the Troops left the Town. We immediately dispatched Messengers to the neighbouring Towns to save them the Trouble of coming in; but the Alarm flew like Lightening (and Fame doubtless magnified the first simple Reports) so that great Numbers were in Arms, and some on the March, before our Messengers arrived.

1. John Sargent, a Tory who shortly after fled to Boston.
2. Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Leslie.
3. Captain Jonathan Felt.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S BRIG *Gaspee*, LIEUT. WILLIAM HUNTER,
COMMANDING ¹

February 1775 At Single Anchor in Nantasket Road
Tuesdy 28th A M Mr Ryall and I return'd from the Court Martial being acquitted – Anchd here from Bermuda His Majesty's Schooner *Hope* –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/381.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] Feby 28th [1775]

The *Hope* Schooner came in; she had sailed from Boston on Christmas day, but soon after she got out, a Snow Storm coming on the Pilot would not venture to carry her over Nantucket Shoals, wherefore she was obliged to go round them, and the Wind suddenly shifting to the North West, and blowing with great violence, Lieut. [George] Dawson after suffering extremely from Cold and Wet, and the Schooner making much Water, to avoid being forced to the West Indies, pushed for Bermudas and going in there the Schooner struck upon a Rock.

The Officers and Crew of the *Halifax* Schooner came to Boston in a Wood Sloop, and reported that on the 15th of February as they were going with a fresh gale large from Cranberry harbour to Machias, the Pilot himself steering, the Schooner about Noon run upon some Rocks, which it being then high Water, were covered; that as there was a great deal of Sea she soon bulged, and they with difficulty saved their Lives, that the succeeding Night it blew very hard and the Vessel next morning was entirely split to pieces, and that they had lost Every thing but the Cloaths on their backs.

1. Graves's Conduct. I, 54, 55, MassHS Transcript.

1 Mar.

LIEUTENANT JOSEPH NUNN TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston March 1st 1775

Sir The 15th. February at three O'Clock in the Morning I sailed from Cranberry Harbour, with His Majesty's Schooner the *Halifax*, intending to put into Machias to take a Pilot for Passamiquody, the Pilot we then had Onboard not being acquainted with the Coast further than Machias; At half past twelve the Pilot being deceived in the Land, run the Schooner upon a Ridge of Rocks off Sheep Island, three Leagues from Bucks Harbour near Machias, the Vessel going at that time seven knots and a half with a fresh Gale at W.S.W. – the Rudder was immediately knocked off on the Vessel striking – I then ordered the Mainsail to be lowered down, hoping to force her off with the Head Sails; upon Sounding we found she had sued three feet forward and surrounded with Rocks, that had three feet less Water on them than She drew – I then ordered the Sails to be furled and the Boats hoisted out, to save what Provisions and Necessaries we could for our Subsistance – At six found the Tide had left the Vessel dry upon the Rocks, with her Starboard Side bulged, seeing it was impossible to save her, we with much difficulty got ashore upon Sheep Island where we encamped, at seven came on a very hard Gale of Wind with Frost and Snow; – At 8. the Sea broke over the Mast Heads and overset the Vessel. We saw no more of her till day break, when we found she was beat to pieces, nothing but the Masts appearing upon the Water, we at the same time saw the Yawl was stove to pieces on the Rocks; – At 8 in the Morning it was more moderate, and finding we were upon an uninhabited Island, I thought it necessary to embrace the first Opportunity of sending the Boats to the Main to endeavour to find some Vessel or Boat, to carry us off the Island, having but one Boat, the loss of which must have cut Us off from any resource, and the Master being an entire Stranger on the Coast, did not think it prudent to risque the Boat without the Pilot, who I ordered to go, cautioning the Master at the same [time] to prevent his escape from him – At nine the next Morning the Master returned with A Small Schooner from Buck's Harbour, where he informed me the Pilot made his escape from him, at half past ten embarked for Bucks Harbour.

As a Detail of what occurred afterwards would be too tedious to insert at present, I must beg leave to refer to the enclosed Journal of our Proceedings from the time we left Cranberry Harbour, to our arrival in this Port. I am, Sir [&c.]

Josh. Nunn

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

CADWALLADER COLDEN, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK, TO
 LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

New York 1st Mar 1775

Two vessels have arrived here since the first of February one of them from Glasgow has been obliged to depart with her Cargoe to Jamaica.² Neither the Master of the Ship nor the merchant to whom the Cargoe was consigned, would demand any assistance, or shewed any inclination to have the goods landed.

It was not therefore possible for Government to interfere with any propriety. The second ship is from London; she still lies a few miles below the Harbour, and it is said is to carry her Cargo to Halifax. Neither the master nor owners of this ship or Cargo, have made any application to Government. The success, my Lord, which the violent Party have had in preventing there vessels from Landing their Cargoes here, has given them great spirits, and it a strong counterpoise to the conduct of the Assembly – Your Ldp. will beleive it has chagrined me a good deal . . .

We have had, my Lord, only one hundred men of the Royal Irish Regiment in this City for several months past, and the *Kings Fisher* Sloop of War in the harbour. The moderate Inhabitants have constantly expressed a wish that we had a more formidable Power in the Place to awe the licentious & encourage the freinds of Government. convinced that it would be for His Matys Service, I wrote to Admiral [Samuel] Graves on the 20th Ulto and suggested to him the utility of sending one of the large Ships from Boston to this Place. I mentioned of what consequence it would be to keep the command of Hudsons River which must be passed by the Southern People before they can join the Eastern. The Idea of their really fighting the Kings Troops, is so full of Madness and folly, that one can hardly think seriously of it – yet my Lord a neglect of proper precautions may encourage wild enthusiasts to attempt what they would not otherwise venture upon.

Except the measures that are pursued in support of the non importation association, the people of this Province are in other respects very quiet and shew no inclination to copy the extravagant Plans of their neighbours

1. O'Callaghan, ed., *Colonial New York*, VIII, 543.

2. The ships *James* and *Beulah*.

WOOLSEY AND SALMON TO JAMES FORDE, DROGHEDA ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 1st March 1775

We had the pleasure of writing you under the 8th of last Decem a Copy of which you have Annaxed, to which plase be Referd. since then have Recvd Sundry Cops of your orders for Wheat to our G. Salmon, and note the Contents. we find it Impossible as yet to get a Vessel for your port. had it been in our power, we would had one of your Cargoes of Wheat well on the Way to you however if any Vessel should offer be assured we will not miss getting her. the Brig that was Chartered in Dublin not yet Arrived if she does come we hope she will have no salt in, if she has salt we cannot tell what will be done with her and it, but be assured we will act for you as if it was our own. if she was hear clear of the Salt we should soon have her loaded

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

LEVINUS CLARKSON TO DAVID VAN HORNE, NEW YORK ¹

Hon. Sir

Chs Town [S.C.] 1 March 1775—

This Instant I Received your favor p Capn Craig, and find you had made Insurance, on the 6 Pipes of Wine wh naturally Augments the Price, But as I am

convinced your Intentions where for my Intrist in covering them you have my thanks—

Sorry that the Wines turn out so Indifferent, I cant git the first Cost owing to their Indifferent Quallity, As to the Pipe Referd to for help of Brandy, All that Mr Evers sent me would not save it, I think the Person you bought it of Should in Honour make me a Considerable Abatement or have it disposd of on his own Accot As no man in Ch Town can dispose of Madeira Wine to a greater Advantage than myself, Provided they are good,

I have Shipd to the Address of Messrs John Lisle & Co Mercht at Madeira 129 Bbls Rice Amot to £500 New York Currency wch Sum pleas to have Insurd on Cargow on Board the Brig *Rebecca* Joseph Vessy Master a prime Bermuda Vessel from Chs Town to the Island of Madeira At and from thence to Chs Town

I find Major Bayard has purchasd me a Horse and is at a Loss to know who is to pay for him, Dr Sir Is it Possable you would not advance this triffling Sum when you know you have given me your Lettr of Credit to draw on you for £500 York Not that I want a Farthing, But what must the Major think of my Circumstances when youle not pay so triffling a sum as £40 or £50 What ever money you have advanced me please to charg Intrist This affair has given me more Unneasiness than you can conceive. This will not be Buried at Bloomingdale, Consiquently, Instead of your Serving me Your proceedings will Injure me—

Should Mr Hamilton be wth you on the Receipt of this Please to desire him to Shipt the Amot of what Cargo I have on Board Lewis should he Sell in Europe in Specie provided there is no Risque of Seizure, As I have since his Absence have had the Address of a Ship & have paid Mr Wm Neate Mercht in London more than his Amot wch I thank god is in general the Case Except the Poor Horse

What would my friend at Chs Town think of me was they to hear of it, Hear I can have Credit for 5000 bbls Rice & thanks in the bargan for taking it, wch is from a Punctuallity in Payments wh pleas to enquire & youl find to be so

Rice is at 50/ and have been Offerd any Quantities Yesterday & that price Yesterday 3 Months Credit, but I make not the Least doubt it will be in a short time 45/ Owing to the Planters fear the Next Congress will not Consent to their having an Exclusive right of shippen grain to England, Consiquently are Hurrying it down before Next Meeting of Congress and very few Ships in here I shall write to Mr Evers & Co to Charter me a Vessell of the Burden 500 Bbls Rice if to be had at 55/ to the Markets & 45/ to Portugail Spain &c— I hope you have long since Reced the Ballance from Mr Sebring & the 34 Bbls Rice p Decamp are come to hand wh will more than pay you your Ballance & the Majors² What ever Business you may please to do for me in future I beg youll Charge me a Com-mision & am Dr Sr [&c.]

Lev^s Clarkson

To the Care of Messrs Willing & Morris via Philadelphia

1. Levinus Clarkson Papers, 1772–1793. LC. See also his previous letter of January 2, 1775.

2. *Ibid.*, “Invoice of 34 Bbls Rice Shipd by Levinus Clarkson on Board the Sloop *Elize* Decamp Master for New York on accot & Risque of the Shipped and Consignd to Mr David Van Horne . . . £514.11.0. Chs Town February 20th 1775, Levs Clarkson.”

2 Mar.MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION OF FALMOUTH, MAINE PROVINCE ¹

Committee of Inspection Chamber Falmouth, March 2, 1775

At a meeting of the Committee of Inspection, at the Library Chamber, to determine what ought to be done with respect to a vessel that arrived here this day from Bristol, supposed to have goods and merchandise for Captain Thomas Coulson on board:

Voted, That Mr. Benjamin Mussey, Captain Joseph McLellan, and Mr. Benjamin Titcomb, be a Committee to employ some person to see that no goods are landed from said vessel during the debates of the Committee of Inspection, and to desire that Captain Coulson and the Master of said vessel would attend this Committee.

Captain Coulson and the Master accordingly attended; and being asked if said vessel came from Bristol, and what she had on board, answered that she did come from Bristol, and had on board Rigging, Sails and Stores for a new Ship lately built here by Captain Coulson.

Voted, That Captain Joseph McLellan, Mr. Jedidiah Cobb, Mr. Benjamin Mussey, and Mr. Samuel Freeman be a Committee to go on board said vessel, or employ some other persons to go on board her, to see whether she has on board any goods other than the Rigging, Sails, and Stores for said new Ship.

The meeting was then adjourned to eight o'clock tomorrow morning to meet at the Library Chamber, and that in the mean time the absent members be desired to attend.

1. Peter Force, comp., *American Archives, Fourth Series* (Washington, 1837-1853), II, 312, 313. Hereafter cited as Force, comp., *American Archives*.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO THE INHABITANTS OF MARSHFIELD, MASS. ¹

[Boston, March 2, 1775]

To the Loyal Inhabitants of the Town of Marshfield

Gentlemen I return you my most hearty thanks for your Address, and am to assure you that I feel great Satisfaction in having contributed to the safety and protection of a People so eminent for their Loyalty to their King and Affection to their Country, at a time when Treason and Rebellion is making such hasty Strides to overturn our most excellent Constitution, and spread Ruin and Desolation thro' the Province -

I doubt not that your duty to God, your King and Country, will excite you to persevere in the Glorious Cause in which you are engaged, and that your laudable Example will animate Others, with the like Loyal and Patriotick Spirit.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

Boston Evening Post, THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1775

Boston, March 2.

His Excellency General [Thomas] Gage, having information that some brass cannon were deposited in or near Salem, he sent an officer to endeavor to discover

where they were lodged, at the same time he ordered a transport to receive on board a detachment of the 64th regiment under the command of Lieut Col [Alexander] Leslie to bring away the above cannon They landed at Marblehead last Sunday [February 26] at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and marched immediately to Salem; where they were informed by the officer sent forward, that he had been in the place where the cannon were supposed to have been concealed; but found none: But the commanding officer having received intelligence that some trucks were seen going out of Salem that morning, he continued his march the road they were said to have taken; but coming to a draw-bridge over an arm of the sea, he found the people on the opposite side had taken it up to prevent his passage: He desired it might be immediately let down; but they refused; saying it was a private road, and that he had no authority to demand a passage that way: On this he determined to ferry a few men over in a gundola (which then lay on the bank) as soon as it could be got afloat; the people discovering this intention, immediately jumped into her, and with axes cut through the bottom; Col. Leslie seeing this, ordered a party to drive them out of her, some of the people however, having obstinately refused to quit her, the soldiers were obliged to use force; upon this a clergyman ¹ complained of the usage. the inhabitants were receiving, when Col. Leslie told him, that if the bridge was not immediately let down, they might expect worse treatment; the clergyman than prevailed with the proprietor to let down the bridge, and the troops marched on, leaving a party in possession of the bridge till they returned which they soon did it being dark, and hearing nothing more of the trucks they went in search of, they then went back to Marblehead, and embarked on board the transport between eight and nine o'clock that night, and returned next day to Boston.

1. Rev. Thomas Barnard, Jr., pastor of the North Church in Salem

3 Mar.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION OF FALMOUTH, MAINE PROVINCE ¹

Falmouth, March 3, 1775

The Committee of Inspection met, pursuant to adjournment. Present: Enoch Freeman, Esquire, Messrs. Daniel Ilsley, Benjamin Titcomb, Enoch Ilsley, John Waite, Stephen Waite, Benjamin Mussey, William Owen, Samuel Knights, Jedediah Cobb, John Butter, Jabez Jones, Smith Cobb, Peletiah March, Pearson Jones, Joseph Noyes, Samuel Freeman, Joseph McLellan, Theophilus Parsons

The question being put whether Captain [Thomas] Coulson's taking said Rigging and Sails out of the vessel in which they arrived, and his appropriating them to rig his new Ship, in order to send her to England, will be a violation of the American Association.

After a long and serious debate, it was

Resolved in the affirmative, by a majority of fourteen to five.

Voted, therefore, That said Rigging, Sails and Stores for said new Ship, ought forthwith to be sent back again, without breaking any of the packages thereof, by a majority of fourteen to five.

Voted, nemine contradicente, That all other goods and merchandise that were imported in said vessel ought also forthwith be sent back again without breaking any of the packages thereof.

Voted, That Messrs. Enoch Ilsley, John Waite and Daniel Ilsley be a Committee immediately to inform Captain [Thomas] Coulson of the result of this Committee; and that they are now sitting if he desires to attend them.

Captain Coulson attended and informed the Committee the Vessel in which his Rigging and Sails arrived was so out of repair, that she was unfit to return back again until she was repaired, and that in order to repair her the freight must be taken out.

The meeting was then adjourned to three o'clock P.M., to meet at the same place.

Three o'clock, P.M.

The Committee met, pursuant to adjournment.

Voted, That the Sub-Committees chosen by the first and second votes of yesterday, be discharged from any further service as Sub-Committees.

Voted, That this Committee will exert their utmost endeavours to prevent all the inhabitants of this Town from engaging in any riots, tumults, and insurrections, or attacks on the private property of any person, as pernicious to the real interest thereof, as well as injurious to the liberty of America in general, and that they will, as far as lies in their power, promote peace and good order, as absolutely necessary to the existence of society.

Ordered, That the result of this Committee, together with the foregoing vote last passed, be posted up in some publick place in the Town, signed by the Chairman.

Attest: Theophilus Parsons, Clerk

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 313.

Salem Gazette, FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1775

Salem, March 2.

A Report prevailing Yesterday in Town that a large Number of Troops were embarked on board Transports at Boston, with an Intention to seize the Cannon at Fort-Island, some People assembled in the Evening, and removed them to a more secure place.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1775

Williamsburg, March 3.

A Caution to the PUBLICK.

Be it known, that his Majesty's armed schooner MAGDALEN, HENRY COLLINS, Esq; commander, mounting four carriage guns, besides swivels, &c. now lies moored opposite to Burwell's ferry, for the purpose of bringing to and searching all vessels going up and down James river. [Note well! masters and owners, that the King pays *no costs or damages* in his Admiralty courts, whether your vessel, after seizure and libelling, be condemned or not. These are *necessary*

expenses, which must come out of *your pockets*; therefore, it will behove you to be on your guard.] ¹

1. Newspaper editor's brackets.

4 Mar.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

Boston March 4th 1775

(No. 25)

My Lord, I have the honour to transmit your Lordship a Paper of Intelligence of the Machinations and Projects of these People, which I have obtained since my last Letter to your Lordship No. 24: The Authority should be good, but I must wait some favourable Opportunity to inform Your Lordship from whence and by what Means the Intelligence has been obtained. The Circumstance of the Eight Field Pieces at Salem led us into a Mistake, for supposing them to be brass Guns brought in from Holland or some of the foreign Islands, which Report had also given Reason to suspect; a Detachment of two hundred Men under Lieut Colonel [Alexander] Leslie was sent privately off by Water to seize them; the Places they were said to be concealed in were strictly searched, but no Artillery could be found. And we have since discovered that they had been only some old Ship Guns which had been carried away from Salem some time ago. The people assembled in great Numbers with Threats and abuse, but the Colonel pursued his Orders, and returned to Marblehead where he had first disembarked his Detachment. . . .

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/92, LC Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

[Extract]

Preston at Boston 4th March 1775.

Sir I have the satisfaction to acquaint you with the Arrival of Lieut [George] Dawson in his Majesty's Schooner *Hope* from Bermudas whither he was obliged to put in, after being blown off this Coast the latter end of December, which I mentioned in my last Letter to you dated the 20th of February, and my fears thereupon: Lieutenant Dawson informs me that going into Bermudas unacquainted, and no Pilot appearing, the Schooner struck upon a Rock about four Leagues S.S.E. of the West end of the Island and received some damage, but with the help of Boats, which soon came to his assistance, they got into Safety, and after repairing the Schooner Lieut. Dawson sailed from Bermudas the 18th of February and arrived here the 28th following. I have now ordered him to Rhode Island to bring to Boston some Marine Cloathing, Camp and Tent Equipage, left on board the *Rose* by his Majesty's Ship *Hind*.

Last Saturday Sen Night the 19th February Lieutenant [William] Hunter in the *Gaspee* returned suddenly from his Station to Boston and acquainted me that on the 13th lying at Falmouth in Casco Bay, four Seamen belonging to the Brig took the Boat from alongside and rowed towards the Shore, and that upon the Master and himself firing at the Boat to make them return, having in vain called to them for that purpose and received very abusive answers, one Man was

wounded, the other three rowed the Boat ashore and deserted at Falmouth where the wounded man died . . . I have ordered the *Gaspee* to return to Falmouth and endeavour to prevail on the select men and the Inhabitants to give up the three Deserters, and, after cruizing in the Neighbourhood 'till April, to proceed to Halifax, there clean and refit; and afterwards attend the Fisheries in the Bay of Chaleur and Gaspee, and on the Coast of Nova Scotia &c

I inclose the Copy of a Letter from Lieut. [Joseph] Nunn² who came to Boston on the 28th of February in a hired Sloop with twenty of the Officers and people belonging to the late *Halifax* Schooner under his Command, whose Vessel is totally lost near Machias Harbour, near the entrance of the Bay of Fundy.

I also enclose a Copy of a Letter to me from Lieutenant Governor [Cadwallader] Colden, to whom I sent in answer that as I had for some time past intended to send one of the large Ships to New York, as early in the Spring as possible, I should now hasten the departure of the *Asia*, whose Captain would co-operate with him in all things for the good of his Majesty's Service. The Merchants of New York seeing so considerable a Naval Force before the City will I hope be induced to import as usual, notwithstanding any illegal Combinations to oppose it, as they may be sure of their Trade having, upon their Application for that purpose, all the assistance and protection that the Kings Ships can afford; And as the Lieutenant Governor is of opinion the Assembly at New York are inclined to take the Lead in endeavouring to effect a Reconciliation between Great Britain and her Colonies, I shall be extremely happy if the *Asia*, by assisting the Civil Government and protecting the property of well disposed Merchants, contributes in any respect to so desirable an Event . . .

The *Rose* and *Swan* in the different passages to Rhode Island have lately seized several Smugglers but we have not yet been so fortunate as to take any Arms or Ammunition.

The *Glasgow* is at last got upon the Ways and will be repaired with all possible Dispatch; about the end of next Month I hope she will be fit for Service.

I have heard lately from all his Majesty's Ships and Vessels under my Command to the Southward of Boston. The *Kingsfisher* is removed from Turtle Bay, where I ordered her to remain during the Severity of the Winter, and by desire of Lieut. Governor Colden lies in the Stream near New York. As Captain [James] Montagu acquaints me there is no likelihood of dangerous Ice, being in the River this Season, I have sent him directions to remain there as long as he shall find it to be necessary for the Kings service. I am &c

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 55-60, MassHS Transcript.

2. See Lieutenant Nunn's letter under date of March 1, 1775.

MAJOR JOHN PITCAIRN, R.M., TO LORD SANDWICH¹

[Extract]

Boston, 4th March 1775.

My Lord I had the honour to write to your Lordship about three weeks ago: nothing very material has occurred since. The battalion of marines are getting the better of their drunkenness. I hope we shall be all well soon. I assure you my Lord I have had a disagreeable time of it: I have lived almost night and

day amongst the men in their barracks for these five or six weeks past, on purpose to keep them from that pernicious rum. I would not have your Lordship think from this that we are worse than the other battalions here, the rum is so cheap that it debauches both navy and army, and kills many of them. Depend on it my Lord, it will destroy more of us than the Yankies will.

The Admiral distresses me much. He keeps fifty of the best men that came out with me; forty of them are from the Chatham division, both the men and the non-commissioned officers belonging to them were volunteers, and who I was exceedingly desirous of having as they would take care of the rest and be an example to them. I have great use for such men, for those sent me from Plymouth are by no means good in any respect. This my Lord is not the only thing wherein the Admiral behaves strangely to me. Yesterday morning he sent for me and told me that I must embark such a number of marines on board the *Asia*. I told him that I should do it with the utmost pleasure, if it was in my power, but I was absolutely under the command of General Gage and could order nothing but as he directed me; that if I did, I was liable to be tried and broke for it. It is needless for me to tell your Lordship how he talked to me and what he said; but be assured that nothing he says or does shall make me deviate from the rules of politeness and the respect due to an admiral and commander of a squadron. I waited on the General and told him what had passed: he was greatly surprised at it and could scarce believe me. He told me the Admiral was with him the day before, asking for those men; that he told him he could not spare them, administration had wrote to him that there were five hundred marines sent as a reinforcement to him, and that he had not got four hundred; and as he was every day threatened with being attacked by many thousands, he could not part with any of his troops. I should not have troubled your Lordship with this affair if the Admiral had not threatened to represent me to the Board; and as he may, I thought it necessary in this private letter to make you master of the whole story. Permit me once more, before I have done with this affair, to assure your Lordship that nothing shall make me behave with incivility or want of respect to any admiral or commanding officer.

Orders are anxiously expected from England to chastise those very bad people. The General had some of the Great Wigs, as they are called here, with him two days ago, when he took that opportunity of telling them, and swore to it by the living God, that if there was a single man of the King's troops killed in any of their towns he would burn it to the ground. What fools you are, said he, to pretend to resist the power of Great Britain; she maintained last war three hundred thousand men, and will do the same now rather than suffer the ungrateful people of this country to continue in their rebellion. This behaviour of the General's gives great satisfaction to the friends of Government. I am satisfied that one active campaign, a smart action, and burning two or three of their towns, will set everything to rights. Nothing now, I am afraid, but this will ever convince those foolish bad people that England is in earnest. What a sad misfortune it was to this country, the repealing of the Stamp Act; every friend to Government here asserts in the strongest terms that this has been the cause of all their misfortunes.

The General had intelligence that there was at Salem some brass field pieces. He sent Colonel Leslie with four companies of the 64th in a transport to Marble-

head. The Colonel landed, and marched with great expedition to Salem: the people beat their drums, rung their alarm bells; but the Colonel saw none in arms but five, and those took care to get out of the way as fast as they could. The people behaved as I suppose they will ever do, made a great noise when there is nobody to oppose them, but the moment they see us in arms and in earnest they will talk very differently. The Colonel found no guns – it is supposed a false information. He marched back to Marblehead and embarked for this place. The moment he left Salem, I am told the people got arms and paraded about, and swore if he had stayed half an hour longer they would have cut him to pieces. If he had continued there till now, none of them would have dared to have appeared in arms.

I am &c.

John Pitcairn

1. Barnes and Owen, eds., *Sandwich Papers*, I, 59–62.

5 Mar. (Sunday)

“REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER”¹

March 1775 Fired a 9 Pounder shotted at a Brigg from Dominico Impress'd
Sunday 5th two Men out of her

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

6 Mar.

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH¹

Halifax March 6th, 1775

(No. 33)

My Lord – I have not presumed to write your Lordship upon the present Commotions in America, as I have had no particular informations, but what might be Collected from the public Prints, and his Majesty's Officers, & Governors in America have without Doubt given your Lordship a full & Adequate State of the matters within their respective Commands.

But as the resolutions of the Congress at Philadelphia have been adopted by several Provinces; one of which resolutions is to have no Trade with any of the Colonies that do not adopt their measures, and to induce the people of this Province to comply the Congress Transmitted their resolves and their other proceedings to the Speaker of the Assembly here, but no Answer has been given them, nor any Notice taken of their Transactions, in this Province. This I am informed has been resented, and the Trade of this Province with them is like to be suppressed, We have had but one small Vessel twice this Winter to Trade with us; but have been in no want of a Supply of all kinds of Necessary Provisions, Bread kind only excepted, & that in this Town only, the Country raising a sufficiency for the Supply of themselves –

As their resolves equally affect the West India Islands, as well as this Province, I have been inquiring carefully how they may in some measure be remedied Canada at present raises greater Quantity's of Grain than they Consume, & they now export the greatest part for Europe, Portugal or Spain, haveing there a better

price, & an easier Navigation than to our West India Islands; but as the produce of their Cargo's is often returned in the produce & Manufactures of Foreign Countries, 'tho' it might Benefit the Canadians; is Disadvantageous to the British Trade –

I beg leave to observe to your Lordship that whilst Canada was in the Hands of the French, that Government were careful to Oblige all their Colonies to exchange their respective Products one with another, & interdicted all Foreigners from any Trade with them, & for this purpose the Town & Port of Louisburg was made an intermediate Port between Canada & their West India Islands, by which means the Navigation between Canada & the French West Indies, was made safe and Commodious. The River St Lawrence is shut up by Ice from the middle of November, and the Gulf full of Ice 'till May & sometimes to the end of that Month, & all Navigation totally suppressed, yet in the Summer Months not less than one Hundred Sail of Vessels were employed in carrying Provisions from Canada to Louisburg, & receiving such supplies as their wants called for, by this means also the French Established a very great Fishery at Louisburg, and a large Trading Town without haveing ten Farmers on the Island.

I am therefore fully of Opinion if the Port of Halifax was Established as an intermediate Port between Canada & the West Indies it would greatly advance the Trade and Interest of both these Provinces, & be a means of Assisting, and making up in some measure the disadvantage that will arise from the supplies being with-held from them by the rest of the Colonies.

But to promote this effectually it will be Necessary to prevent the Canadians from sending their produce usually exported to the West India Colonies, to any part of Europe except Great Britain and Ireland, the rest will follow of course, for the West India Islands will take of all their produce, & instead of Brandy, Oil &c. they will have in return Rum, Sugar, & Sundry other Articles, a mutual & Reciprocal Exchange of their own Commodities. –

The Port of Halifax being on every Account the best Port in America for safety & Convenience, accessable at all Seasons of the Year, is in its situation in respect to the West Indies, so placed that a Direct course may be made to any of the West India Islands, & in generall shorter passages than from any other Port in America, here the Canadian comeing from the West Indies may safely resort till the Navigation of the Gulf and River becomes open & Safe. –

I beg leave further to Observe to your Lordship, that the Fishery carried on by the Inhabitants of the Massachusetts and New Hampshire is principally on the Coasts of Nova Scotia; few Fish are caught to the Westward of Cape Sables; by this Fishery they are inabled from these Colonies to supply Spain & Portugal, & other European Powers in the Mediterranean, the principal returns from thence are the products and Manufactures of those Powers which are imported into their Provinces by which means they are fully Supplied with those Goods prohibited by Acts of Parliament, to be imported directly from thence into any part of America: by the Multiplicity of their ports, and the great propensity of the Inhabitants in general to that Trade Notwithstanding the Number of Officers there to prevent it, & a Number of Cruizers, they find means to elude all their Vigilance. –

As the Port of Halifax is situated in the center of the Fishery, it might have

been conjectured, that it would in time have Drawn the Principal part of the Fishery into this Port, but Unfortunately for us, we have had no other Fishermen that has resorted and settled here, but the very refuse of the Fishermen who could not get an employ at Newfoundland, and the Contraband Trade so Beneficial to the other Colonies, & which has given them so great an Advantage, has prevented a resort of Industrious Fishermen from New England.

The remark I would observe to your Lordship on this Head, is, That if the Port of Halifax, was for a limited Time Established as the only intermediate Port between the European Powers and the Colonies for the importation of such of their Products as Parliament might allow on the Payment of certain Duties, a very Considerable Revenue would be secured to the Crown. The Fishery be Transferred from New England to this Province; The very Funds of that Contraband Trade Destroyed, and the illegal Importation of Foreign produce more effectually suppressed. —

I am fully persuaded if these measures could be carried into Execution, it would make a Material Alteration in favour of these two Colonies, & be much more advantageous as well to the West India Island, as the British Trade, all which I humbly Submit to your Lordships Consideration —

I have the Honour to be with the great Respect My Lord [&c.]

Fran^s Legge

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 217/51.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Copy./

Boston March 6th 1775.

Sir/ A Vessel being turn'd out of the harbour with Kings Provisions May and certainly will put us to great difficultys to Obtain others for the like services. the last was procured from a Gentm in New York when no other could be got who by being Obliged to put to Sea was near being lost beside the Additional expence to the Crown to bring these provisions round.

I conceive Vessels loaded with no other Cargoe but for the use of Government have by the Act of parliament a right to come into the Harbour; I now send you the Names of two Vessells daily expected with Provisions from New York, one Sloop *Susanah* Stephen Weeks Master, & Sloop *Speedwell* Thomas Bernard Mastr and beg the Favor you will order that they may enter the Port and unload their Cargoes.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] March 6th [1775]

The *Gaspee* sailed with Orders to cruize in Casco Bay untill the beginning of April, then to repair to Halifax, clean and refit, and afterwards proceed to attend the Fisheries along the Coast of Nova Scotia, in Canso, Gaspee and Chaleur Bays, and when short of provisions to victual either at Halifax or Quebec, but at the end of the fishing Season to return to Boston.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 60, MassHS Transcript.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

March 6, 1775

Captain William Moat, of the Brig *Sally*, from Bristol, appeared before the Committee, and reported his Cargo on Oath, consisting of one Hundred Tons of British Salt, and Twenty-four Indented Servants. The Captain further reports that he took in his Salt before the 12th Day of December, and on or about that day, he fell down the River with his Vessel, to Place called Rowland Ferry, there to take in his Servants; that he continued there until the 23d, and sailed from King-Road the 24th of December.

Upon motion made by Doctor John Stevenson, to whom Capt. Moat's Vessel and Cargo were addressed, "that he might have Liberty from the Committee, to land the said Cargo of Salt, alledging it ought only to be considered as Ballast, and was not intended to be prohibited by the Associa[tion] of the Continental Congress"

The Committee took into Consideration, the State of the said Brig *Sally*, Capt. William Moat.

Resolved unanimously, That the Salt imported in the said Brig be not landed.

1. *Maryland Journal*, March 29, 1775.

7 Mar.

Essex Gazette, SALEM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 TO MARCH 7, 1775

Salem, March 7 [1775].

Last Friday Night [March 3] Twenty seven Pieces of Cannon were removed out of this Town, in order to be out of the Way of Robbers.

MAGISTRATES OF THE COUNTY OF PLYMOUTH TO VICE ADMIRAL
SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

We the subscribers, Magistrates of the County of Plymouth within the province of Massachusetts Bay – Most humbly Shew –

That the tumults & disorders which are prevalent in said county, have justly alarmed the small number of Loyal & well affected persons, who reside in the Shire-town, & towns adjacent and (from a variety of threats & insults which have lately been offer'd them) they are apprehensive that an attempt will be speedily made to secure & detain their persons. And as they are (some of them) more than forty miles distant from the metropolis, & must pass thro' towns whose inhabitants are notoriously factious & malicious, their escape (by land) will be difficult if not impossible. We therefore in behalf of these his Majesty's faithful & Loyal subjects, most earnestly request That an armed vessel may be ordered to the harbour of Plymouth, that so they and their innocent families may be assisted in their retreat from the Baseless insults of rebellious & inhuman rioters. And as in duty bound shall pray

Boston March 7th 1775

Peter Oliver
Josiah Elick
H^y Thomas

Peter Oliver Jun^r
Ed Winslow jun^r

1. Winslow Papers, DAC.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE¹

Sir

Boston 7th March 1775

I had the Honor of your Excellency's Letter of yesterday, and beg leave, in answer, to represent to you that The Act of Parliament allowing no Supplies of Provisions or Fuel, to be brought for the Inhabitants of Boston but such as are cleared at Marblehead, and Stores for the Use of Government only in Vessels Commissioned by or in the immediate pay of the King; ² My orders to the Captains of the King's Ships under my Command are consonant to these Regulations, and nothing is permitted to pass in or out but as the Law directs; except by License under My hand and Seal which has always readily been granted when the King's Service would suffer by too strictly following the Letter of the Law; and I am greatly chagrined to find that in doing our Duty afloat We have occasioned any embarrassments in Your Excellency's Military Department. However I cannot help thinking this Might have been avoided by the Contractor's acquainting your Excellency, at an early period, that he expected this Vessel to arrive from New York; Your Excellency may be assured that I have great satisfaction in facilitating rather than impeding the Entrance of Supplies for the Army, where the Act is defective or not sufficiently explicit; And whenever Your Excellency is pleased to send Me the Names of Vessels bringing Provisions or Stores for the Army, I shall not only cheerfully grant them permission to enter, but direct them to have any assistance the Squadron can afford.

The Passes your Excellency has Now desired for the Sloops *Sunna* [*Susannah*] and *Speedwell* will be delivered upon Mr. Loyd's application for them to My Secretary. I have the Honor to be with great respect and regard Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. Boston Port Bill of March 25, 1774.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

[Boston] 7th [March, 1775]

The *Hope* Schooner sailed for Rhode Island with a Quantity of Arms and Ammunition on Board, sent by General [Thomas] Gage to Colonel [Thomas] Gilbert; and the Admiral directed Captain [James] Wallace to convey them to Free Town or Assonet River, with as much Secrecy and Dispatch as could be.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 60, MassHS Transcript.

DEPOSITION OF JOHN GRAHAM¹

City of New York ss

PERSONALLY came and appeared before me, David Matthews, Esq; one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, for the City and County of New York, JOHN GRAHAM, Clerk to Robert and John Murray, of this City, Merchants, and being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, did depose and say: That he left this City on Sunday morning last [March 5], in Company with the said John Murray, and proceeded with him on board the ship *Beulah*, then lying at the

Watering Place; – that shortly after they arrived on board the said Ship, they weighed Anchor, and proceeded to Sandy Hook, where the Ship continued until about seven of the Clock this Morning, at which time they weighed Anchor, and stood out to Sea. – That the said Deponent, and the said John Murray left the said Ship, and came up opposite to Staten Island, where the said John Murray landed, about two of the Clock this Afternoon, and was going (as the Deponent understood from the said John Murray) to Elizabeth Town, to settle some Business with Lord Stirling: – That the Deponent saw the said Ship pass the Light House, about eight of the Clock this morning: – That neither the said John Murray, or the Deponent was on board the said Ship, after the Anchor was weighed: – That the Deponent did not hear any Conversation between the said John Murray and any other Person, relative to the taking any Goods out of the said Ship, nor does he believe that any Boat is employed for that Purpose: – That the Deponent's Business on Board was to copy Invoices and Letters; and further the Deponent saith not.

JOHN GRAHAM

Sworn this seventh Day of March, 1775, Before me D MATTHEWS

1. *New York Journal*, March 9, 1775.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN ¹

[Baltimore] 7 [March, 1775]

Since writing you the 2d Instant none of yours – and little Alteration Save the Price of Wheat is down to 6/ & Flour to 15/ no acct of the Brig from Liverpool & no Vessel to be got for Drogheda. Doctor Stephenson has a Brig arrived with Salt ² I shall be able to Inform you soon What will be done with it, You may be Assured that if Tichel ³ comes & brings any he will have the Same Fate.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.
2. The inward entries do not disclose such a brig.
3. Henry Tickell, master of the brig *Henry & Joseph*.

CORNELIUS HARTNETT, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, TO RICHARD QUINCE, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF BRUNSWICK, NORTH CAROLINA ¹

Sir [Wilmington] Tuesday 7th March, 1775

From the Captain of a vessel from Hispaniola, just come to town, we learn that a snow has arrived from Glasgow, laden with Bale Goods, Bricks, Wines, &c.; you are sensible, Sir, that these Goods, agreeable to the Articles of Association, ought to be returned; and take this very early opportunity of putting you in mind that she is a subject of your attention, having committed a breach of said Association within your limits.

The names of the Captain and Vessel are now known, but supposed to be the snow *Relief*, Dougal McGregor, Master. You will please communicate the procedure of your committee in this affair.

Signed Cornelius Hartnett

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, IX, 1152.

10 Mar.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP ROSE" ¹

March 1775 Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour

Friday 10 light breezes and Cloudy P M came in HM Schooner *Hope*, . . .
 delivrd to the *Hope* Schooner 11 Bales of Marine Cloathing & 9
 Casks of Camp Equipage Recd from Do 50 Musquets & 50 Bay-
 onets, 1 Barrl of Powder, 3 Boxes of Shot, 1 Bag of Flints, . . .

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

 JONATHAN HAMPTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION OF
 ELIZABETH TOWN, TO THE COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION OF NEW YORK ¹

Gentlemen, Elizabeth-Town, Friday evening 12 o'clock, March 10, 1775

In consequence of the information received from Captain [Isaac] Sears, relative to the suspicion that some part of the cargo of the ship *Beulah*, had been unladed before she quitted this coast, the Committee of Observation for this town, met this evening, and made enquiry respecting the affair; and thereupon have to inform you, that it appears to them that a boat belonging to this town, did last Monday morning sail from New York to Sandy-Hook; that on Tuesday evening [March 7] she returned here. Two of the witnesses examined were the boatmen and the person who we suspect engaged the boat, who refused to be sworn, but from their behaviour, and what they said on examination, and other circumstances, we believe that this was the boat seen to be hovering about the *Beulah*, and took Mr. John Murray out of the ship, and that goods from said ship were landed by the said boat at Staten Island. We are not able at present to furnish you with any further particulars: The Committee will make further enquiry into this matter, and if any thing further appears, we will give you immediate information; – in the mean time we thought proper to give the above early intelligence, to furnish you with a clue in all probability of making more important discoveries on Staten Island, where we think the goods were undoubtedly landed, at the East end or in the Kills. by order of the Committee

Jonathan Hampton, Chairman

1. *New York Journal*, March 23, 1775.
 ROBERT STRATFORD BYRNE TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF HIS MAJESTY'S CUS-
 TOMS IN AMERICA ¹

(Copy)

Annapolis 10th Mar 1775

Honble Sirs I beg leave to acquaint you I arrived here the 6th inst in consequence of a Seizure I made on the 2d the Deposition of which will be transmitted you by the Governor, but I lament it is not in my power to give you the particular contents of the laden, as when I was attacked they robbed me of the Minute I'de taken with some things of considerable value my own property.

From the situation of the times & the distance of the place I was to escort them to *Singly* you will suppose the attempt in this rebellious place must have been attended with the greatest hazard of my life, but as the object of His Majesty's

Service (which I've much at heart) by shewing a precedent, I should be wanting in duty upon so urgent, an occasion was I not to exert myself, were the consequences attending be of the utmost Injury to my personal safety, in this Providence interfered when I add no man was ever nigher suffering Publick Execution, when I felt the inhumane barbarity of an incensed Mob upwards of three hours from whom I experienced the utmost Brutality without the least lenity whatsoever.

The appointment of Surveyor sure was never intended I should fall a victim in a Country without any support, where the Civil Magistrate dare not execute his authority, as every man here is upon an equality, in this what can an Officer do who is bound by Oath to perform the trust reposed in him when I assert this and assure you I am the first ever executed his Commission here as being the first resident ever here before from your Honours Candor I doubt not you will pity my situation which I affirm is in the utmost danger, when I say this & can hardly get a house to receive me since I made the Seizure what must you imagine I undergo when I experienced those unhumane hardships. —

That your Honors may not be further deceived in the appointment I affirm it unnecessary, tho' the Smugling Trade carried on here is very extensive particularly between this & the Province of Pennsylvania, where Ships I am well informed touch in at Duck Creek Land what they have for this Province to avoid the Customs & so proceed up Delaware to Philadelphia some part below which place lyes a Sloop of War which should prevent it, if His Majesty's Officers do not exert themselves, where they have protection what am I singly to do unsupported in an inland Country abounded daily with Counterband trade. —

From these Circumstances Honble Sirs it is impossible to act, nor at the same time can I think of perjuring myself by overlooking things I'm bound to prosecute, but Cheerfully will I execute his Majestys Interest provided assistance notwithstanding the Consequences for the present it is impossible nor dare I return as yet to my station from apprehensions of a further assault in this I must beg my speedy removal elsewhere or leave of absence to return to Europe which I doubt not your Honours will immediately comply with. —

I'm here now seeking an Asylum under the Governor till other measures are adopted for my Security in whom I find everything I can expect from the times & from the barbarous treatment I've met with am mostly confined to my bed which is very expensive exclusive of my private Losses which I've no prospect of ever regaining except thro' your Honors benevolence & good offices in my behalf when I remind you its hard I should suffer in my person exclusive of property in prosecuting what I was bound to perform, should I meet with no other attonement, I flatter myself from the Deposition you will approve of my Conduct, & that you will never have reason to Censure me in the execution of my Office hereafter notwithstanding this Miscarriage by a Superiour force it may have a little effect by the issue of a Proclamation. I beg your Honours indulgence for the incorrectness of this Letter. I suffer while I write but I doubt not the Collector & Comptr will give you a more explicit explanation of facts & that I remain &c.

(signd) Rob Stratford Byrne.

DEPOSITION OF ROBERT STRATFORD BYRNE ¹

Maryland sst

[March 10, 1775]

Came before the Subscriber one of the Lords Proprietary his Justices of the Provincial Court Robert Stratford Byrne, Surveyor of His Majesty's Customs for Sassafras & Bohemia, and made Oath on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God, that on Thursday the Second Day of March, last being in Kent County Maryland on the great Road leading to Duck Creek in Pennsylvania, he this Deponent fell in with two loaded Waggon, upon enquiring from whence they came and Destination was informed by one of the Drivers they belonged to Duck Creek and that their Loading consisted chiefly in Rum, Sugar, Coffee, a Drum, Colours, two Boxes of piece Goods &ca. chiefly the property of Messrs Lorain, Bolton & Anderson of Chester Town That after enquiring of the Drivers if they had Cockets for their Lading this Deponent was informed in the Negative, upon which he was under the necessity of making a Seizure that after this Deponent had escorted them on Foot for about Six or Eight Miles the Waggoners desired to Bait their Horses, that this Deponent, with reluctance, was obliged to comply, as one of the Drivers swore he would Act as he pleased, whose Name he was informed, is Shahahan – that being apprehensive of an Attack from the Drivers behaviour and frequent assembling of People, it growing Dark and having no assistance made him the more Watchful – that going down to the lower Waggon, where were some People examining the Contents, upon this Deponents desiring them to keep off, he could perceive a small Cask which he solemnly believes contained Gun powder and was Noticed by several of them saying they wished it their Property – That in the dark he was attacked by a number of People who were assembled at the Mill of Oliver Gallop, that after getting him down by Force and taking a new Fusee from him, they began to rifle his Pockets, and took about Twenty Eight Shillings, a red morroco Pocket Book, two yards of Black Riband and a Powder Horn, that a number of People got upon this Deponent & treated him in a very inhuman manner, and then the general Cry was drive on the Waggon and we will take care of him, on which this Deponent immediately saw the Waggoners put their Horses expeditiously too and drive off – that this Deponent being almost senseless from the pressure of their Bodies when the Cry of Tar and Feathers echoed, he attempted to struggle hard to avoid the Operation and could perceive them brought from the Mill of said Gallop, who by this time had absconded, and that after putting a quantity on his Head and Cloaths they dragged this Deponent several times on the Ground to the danger of his Life, that they threatened to Drown him if he would not drink with them which he reluctantly comply'd with. At this time they were dragging this Deponent to a Pond that afterwards they got a Horse saddled and mounted this Deponent several times with his Face to the Horses Tail shouting Liberty and driving him about said Mill Yard. that at Intervals this Deponent had several Swabbs of Tarr put upon his Cloaths and Stockings, that he several times cried out, not to Murder him & particularly to the Miller Gallop for Assistance, and requested him to admit this Deponent into his House which was refused, tho' he promised faithfully not to pursue the Waggon, they said they would take care this Deponent should not –

That they then, by Force, mounted this Deponent several times on a raft of Wood supported by a number of People on their Shoulders carrying him about in that brutal Manner – That this Deponent often intreated Mercy, and accused them of robbing him, but in return received the most opprobrious Language – That this Deponent being almost exhausted, with the Treatment he had received, begged a drink of Water several times which was refused him. – that he often entreated several People on Horseback to intercede for him, who at first he imagined were only Spectators, but found himself mistaken as they seemed to be abettors of the Treatment he received. that after this they conducted him, or rather dragged him to another Pond of Water, as this Deponent imagines to be about a Mile from said Mill, where they were going to execute more of their Barbarity here this Deponent was so exhausted he was obliged to intreat Mercy on his Knees most fervently, that this Deponent received several Kicks on the Feet, some violent Pressures and a little Tar, continually insulting him and speaking Words tending to high Treason – They then conducted this Deponent about a Mile further upon the main Road leading to George Town – and struck off into the Woods, he believes about half a Mile from the Road, damning him repeatedly, shouting Liberty and Duck Creek for ever –, That after hauling this Deponent some distance, several Motions were made against this Deponents Life, threatening to Execute him, or at least tye him to a Tree til Morning if he did not comply with the following infamous Requisitions, on compliance with which this Deponent was to be set at Liberty – Who gave him This Commission? Immediately to quit the Province, and inform [Lord] North if he had been in his place he would have met with worse Treatment, never to accept the like Office again, with many other Words tending to the same Purport all which this Deponent peremptorily refused, alledging they had treated him so very inhumanly that he disregarded his Life as not worth holding on such Terms and was now resigned to suffer such further Punishment as his Fate decreed – The Speaker for the Mob upon this Occasion (who this Deponent believes belonged to the Mill) made a motion for conducting him to Duck Creek in order that he might undergo another new Suit, and led him from the Woods back in the same cruel Manner, escorted as before, to the main Road, but this Deponent could observe that many of the Former Horse Men had absconded & others coming from the Cross Roads shouting & Whistling – That this Deponent being so very Weak, from the barbarous Usage, often intreated to sit down a Minute but was refused – that they then dragged this Deponent through a Pool of Water on the Road & that, from Appearance, many of them were Men of Property – This Deponent being certain of further Injury to his Person, as Horsemment were passing & repassing continually being then near George Town this Deponent intreated Releasement but was refused, alledging he was to be given up a Second time to the Brutality of another set of Men – This Deponent approaching the Town he began to apprehend his Life in the utmost Danger, the People assembling and crying out an Informer Tar & Feathers that this Deponent providentially seeing Light in the House of one Pillotson in George Town cried out incessantly Murder, upon which his Mouth was attempted to be stopped, which brought forth numbers of People with Lights – The Assailants crying Out Lights & dragged this Deponent along – he then made a vigorous Effort & pushed

amongst some Gentlemen whose Protection he implored, that he believes he was upwards of three Hours in the Hands of a Mob suffering the most inhuman Treatment – Notwithstanding this Deponents sufferings, his Lodgings were surrounded all Night & he was apprehensive of being again Attacked. he therefore stood on the Defensive 'til almost Morning, that on the ensuing Day he received frequent Information of another Assault being intended that Evening by a Number in George Town, which caused this Deponent to retreat to the Woods and secret himself until the Fifth – That George Town being in his District & where his Duty may frequently call him, this Deponent apprehends from the Language of the People if he returns he is not to expect Lenity, nor can he think of returning to his Department 'til proper Measures are adopted for his Security in prosecuting His Majestys Service – That this Deponent has reason to believe said Oliver Gallop was concerned in this Deponents barbarous Treatment for Reasons assigned before – That this Deponent has never as yet received any of the Stolen Goods but has received Information that the Names of the Waggoners are Shahahan & White the former a Strong looking Man & the latter lower Sized and that they both belong to Duck Creek and further Saith not.

[Endorsed, Mr. Byrne's Deposition In Mr Reeve's of 19 April]

1. MdHS Transcript from PRO, Treasury Papers, Bundle 438.

“COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE COLLECTOR & COMPTROLLER OF CHESTER AND PETAPSCO IN MARYLAND TO THE COMMRS OF THE CUSTOMS DATED 10TH MARCH 1775”¹

Hon: Sirs We are sorry to have occasion to trouble you at this time on a disagreeable subject, but the inhuman Treatment which Mr Robert Stratford Byrn has received as an Officer of the Customs from a licentious Mob, renders it absolutely necessary that you should as speedily as possible be furnished with a clear and precise Account of the matter, for which purpose we beg leave to transmit a Copy of his Deposition, taken before a Provincial Magistrate, the original will be forwarded by the Governor as soon as he shall have laid it before the Council in order that a Proclamation may issue for apprehending and bringing to Justice the parties concerned within this Government. It is unfortunate for Mr. Byrn that he cannot particularise a single offender except two Waggoners, who are both non Residents. So soon as Mr Byrn related his unhappy situation, no time was lost before two Magistrates were called upon, who immediately declared their readiness to exert themselves in his behalf, in case he could name any of the Inhabitants within their County who had committed such a daring and outrageous breach of the Laws. The Fusee mentioned in the Deposition, we are informed, was broke and thrown into a Pond and the other effects have been secreted. Governor [Robert] Eden has also promised to write Governor [John] Penn a state of the matter in order to enable him to take such measures as the nature of the case may require – Mr Byrn is now at Annapolis and cannot think of returning to his District without protection – The Governor informed him that he had no Military Force and therefore he must depend alone on the exertion of the Civil Power – as Mr Byrne is convinced he cannot during the present convuls'd state of the Colonies, be of any



THE ALTERNATIVE OF WILLIAMS-BURG.

Plate IV.

London Printed for R. Sayer & J. Bennett at 33 Fleet Street as the Act directs 16 Feb 1793

real service in his District he is very solicitous for your Permission to return to England which will enable him to lay his sufferings before the Lords of the Treasury. – at his request we also inclose, for your perusal, his Letter to the Collector, written immediately after his releasement from the Mob.

We take the liberty of intimating to your Honors, that we have reason to believe, from the Tenor of Mr Byrne's past Conduct, that his Finances will not admit of his departure from this Province with Reputation.

Should you think proper to point out any different mode for us to pursue than those already adopted, as matters are now circumstanced on this Continent, you will please to signify your pleasure therein.

sign'd Will Geddes Collr
John Clapham Compr

1. MdHS Transcript from PRO, Treasury Papers, Bundle 438.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1775

Williamsburg, March 10.

This day the libel exhibited against the schooner *Wray* galley, laden with 84 hogsheads of tobacco, by Henry Collins, Esq; commander of his Majesty's armed schooner *Magdalen*, came on to be heard in the court of Admiralty. The cause of seizure alledged was a supposed violation of an act of Parliament, in not having given bond, before any tobacco had been taken on board, that the same should be unladen in Great Britain, the town of Berwick upon Tweed, or some British plantation. Upon consideration of the arguments, the Judge determined that no country craft was required to give such bond; & therefore, the libelled vessel being in that predicament, was acquitted. The prosecutor has entered an appeal; and probable cause of seizure being certified, the respondents were ordered to pay costs.

11 Mar.

JONATHAN HAMPTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION OF ELIZABETH TOWN, TO THE COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION OF NEW YORK ¹

Gentlemen

Elizabeth Town, March 11th, 1775

The Committee of Observation of this town, have this day used their endeavours to make a further discovery, relating to the unlading part of the cargo of the ship *Beulah*, but are not able to give you the information they desire Samuel Lee, a Boatman of this town, employed and accompanied by Ichabod B. Barnet, Esq; (son in law to Robert Murray) appear from very strong circumstances, to have been the persons concerned in that affair, who went from New York on Monday last [March 6] to the ship.

We have had Lee before us, he appears greatly perplexed, but cannot be persuaded to give any clear information of the matter, he being under an apprehension that he by that means may be the ruin of some particular persons in New York. – The said Barnet was also before us, but refused to answer the questions proposed to him; he only offered to swear (if it would be any satisfaction to us) that no goods from the *Beulah* were landed at this town, which, however, we did

not accept. And there is reason to believe that Lee would have given information, had it not been for said Barnet, who, it appears, has prevented him from making the desired discovery.

We have only to add that the boat employed on this occasion, is the property of Isaac Woodruff, Esq; who it clearly appears was perfectly innocent, and knew nothing of the affair.

Signed by order of the Committee,

Jonathan Hampton, Chairman

1. *New York Journal*, March 23, 1775.

WOOLSEY AND SALMON TO THOMAS GREG ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 11h March 1775

By Sundry favrs of Mr Jas Forde of Dro[g]heda In which we have Recvd order for Wheat, he Requests our Informing you what we are doing for him. We can now Inform you that the Brig *Henry & Joseph* ² Henry Tickell Master is Arrived here from Liverpool with a Cargo of White Salt for Acct of Mr Jas Forde & the Restrictions on our trade from England hindering us to Even attempt Landing it for fear of Getting both Vessell & Cargo Destroyed we have been under the Necessity of Chartering the Schooner *Betsey* Isaac Snow Mastr for Halifax in Nova scotia where we Intend Sending it. we believe the Schooner will Carry the whole 5000 bushels, therefore Request yr making the Necessary Insurance on her for Mr Forde & our G. Salmon (at Mr Geo Darleys Dublin) what we now write you we hope to Dispatch Capt Tickell with a load of wheat for Dro[g]hade on Acct of Mr Forde Capt Tickell thinks he will take 7000 bushels & we Expect he will Sail in four Weeks this for Yr Government in Respect to Insurance on him we shall write you again by first Oppertunity plase take notice the schooner is a good Vessell not two Years Old & the Master well acquainted with the Co[a]st he is going.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. The *Henry & Joseph* had entered the port March 8, with a cargo consisting of 1 puncheon of Jamaica rum, 110 gallons of rum, and 5133 bushels of salt.

13 Mar.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1775

Boston, March 13

His Majesty's armed schooner *Halifax*, commanded by Lieut. [Joseph] Nunn, was lately cast away near Machias, at the Eastern Part of this Province; the Vessel entirely lost, but the People with some Difficulty saved themselves.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] Mar. 13.

The ship *Bealah*,² which lately arrived at N York from England, with a cargo of goods prohibited by Congress, was obliged to depart again with all her

goods. She sailed back again from N York for Halifax Tuesday 7th Inst. Great were the exertions of the Tories at N York to retain and unlade her; and also to obstruct the choosing of Delegates to the next Continental Congress. – but with an entire defeat.

1. Stiles, I, 400, LC.

2. The ship *Beulah*, property of Robert and John Murray, merchants of New York.

New York Gazette, MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1775

New York, March 13.

Last Sunday Week [March 5] at two o'clock the Ship *Beulah*, Capt. Bussell, left the Watering-place, and proceeded on her Voyage to Halifax, in Nova Scotia, with the Goods she had brought from London to this Port.¹

On Friday Evening the 10th Inst. arrived here the Ship *York*, Capt. Acklin, from London, with Passengers. – At the Request of the Consignee and Captain of the Ship, three Members of the Sub Committee of Observation, went on board to examine whether she had brought any Goods; and after a careful Examination found she had brought none, except the Stores necessary for her Passengers.

1. Not all the goods went to Halifax, as the observant William Smith recorded on March 18, "Lindley Murray (with Watson & another Quaker) importuned me to assist in preventing the Banishment of his Father and Uncle for taking Goods out of the *Beulah* from London & intimated that I had influence upon the Liberty Boys." Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, 214.

ROBERT AND JOHN MURRAY TO THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK ¹

Gentlemen, Having been disappointed in our design of reshipping the cargo of the ship *Beulah* (lately arrived from London) in another bottom, by which we were great sufferers, and though we then conceived that such our design, if executed, would have been a compliance with the resolution of the Congress: We acknowledge that to alleviate in some measure the great loss we sustained, we have been induced to land a small part of her cargo; and notwithstanding we are persuaded that it would be exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to obtain full and sufficient evidence of the fact; and that the goods are secured in a place of safety, where they cannot be discovered; yet, upon mature reflection, and with a view to satisfy the public, and this Committee, as well as to prevent the trouble of any further enquiries upon this subject: we are led to make this declaration, and to acknowledge, that we are sorry for the imprudent step we have taken, and that we do condemn the same as an unjustifiable measure; and as a further proof of our willingness to conform to the resolution of the Congress, as far as is now in our power, we do hereby engage to re-ship all the said goods, according to the tenor of the association; and to give the Committee full and satisfactory proof thereof within seven days from this time, dated 13th March, 1775

Robert Murray
John Murray

1. *New York Journal*, March 23, 1775.

DEPOSITION OF SAMUEL LEE ¹

New Jersey Borough of Elizabeth, ss.

SAMUEL Lee, of Elizabeth-Town, boatman, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, that on Sunday the 5th inst. he (at the request of Ichabod B. Barnet, Esq:) sail'd from Elizabeth Town aforesaid to New York, in the boat or sloop he usually goes in, the said Barnet going as a hand with him; that he arriv'd there the same evening; that while they were on their passage, said Barnet inform'd this deponent, that he must make haste to unload his Boat as soon as he should arrive at New York, for that a vessel was arrived at the Hook from the West Indies, and that he wanted this deponent to go with him with his boat, and take some goods out of her; – that said boat was unloaded at New York on Monday morning, and immediately thereafter this deponent, and the said Barnet, sail'd with the said boat for Sandy Hook; that at the dusk of the evening of the same day they came along side of a ship, which this deponent believes was the *Beulah*, and about 8 o'clock he was told he might go to bed, which he accordingly did, and went to sleep about 12, was awakened, and desired to put off from said ship, and make sail, which accordingly was done; that he saw the said Barnet, with Mr. John Murray and one Graham, his clerk, were then on board his boat; that on Tuesday morning they touched on Staten-Island, where Mr. [John] Graham landed, but no goods were landed there; that on Wednesday morning [March 8] about 1 o'clock they came alongside the store of said Barnet, at Elizabeth-Town, where they the said John Murray, Ichabod B. Barnet, and this deponent, landed and stor'd in the said Barnet's store, as near as he can remember, the following goods, to wit, a small bale, a box about three feet long, one do. about a foot square, the contents of which are unknown to this deponent; also a quantity of sail duck, a number of bolts of oznaburgs, about half a dozen pieces of linen, and some pieces of linen cloth, which this deponent supposeth to be drilling; which goods in the whole, this deponent thinks were in quantity about one ton and an half, or not exceeding two tons – And this deponent saith, that said goods must have been taken out of said ship, and put on board said boat, while he was below as aforesaid, as there were no goods on board his boat when he left New York to go to said ship; and further the deponent saith, that he did not sleep so sound but that he heard the noise of people working upon the deck, and that when he was called up as aforesaid, and had come upon deck, he perceiv'd the hatches of his boat open, and the said goods then lying in the hatchway. – And further the deponent saith not.

Samuel Lee

Sworn at Elizabeth Town this 13th day of March 1775, before me,

John Blanchard, Alderman.

1. *New York Journal*, March 23, 1775.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1775

Philadelphia, March 13

On the 7th inst, as George Taylor, of Wilmington, in his own shallop, was on his passage from thence to this city, he was boarded by a party of ruffians from the King's armed schooner the *Diana*, commanded by Captain [Thomas] Greaves (Nephew to Admiral [Samuel] Greaves now at Boston) who brought Taylor too, and on boarding him demanded what he had on board, to which he answered only rum and limes, but civilly told them they might go down and look; they then demanded his papers, which were produced authentic, but this not satisfying them, they entered the cabbin, wherein were several hundred pounds cash, which Taylor, no doubt, justly thinking proper to have his eye toward, went after them to the cabbin, door without going down; whereupon he was immediately menaced and insulted, as suspecting the honour of the king's men, and although he made no other than a moderate civil reply, as several passengers on board can testify, he was immediately furiously attacked and knocked down, where he was beaten in a most inhuman manner till the deck was besmeared with blood, and at the same time shamefully insulted with the infernal language common to such crews, (and which but for offending the civilized ear might be repeated) they then threatened to throw him overboard and drown him, took the command of his boat, and after gratifying their malice by towing her about in the river, took her along side the schooner, where the illustrious Captain detained her a considerable time, insulting and abusing the skipper, and justifying and applauding the conduct of his heroic men, who had thus brought him a common shallop with two or three men on board, without the least appearance of clandestine conduct; after the gallant Captain with his crew had somewhat glutted their rancour, they dismissed the shallop, but Taylor was so wounded and abused that he was not able to conduct her, yet, by the assistance of those on board she was got up to this city, and he afterwards conveyed home to Wilmington, where he lay dangerously ill.

Query – Whether such conduct as this, does not merit the attention of the public, and an exertion of the power of those in authority?

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee of Inspection for Baltimore County the 13th of March 1775

Upon Motion ordered that the form of an Oath, to be Taken by all Masters of Vessels, be drawn up, and the same being drawn up and approved; Ordered that the same be entered in the Minutes of the Proceedings and that every Captain take and subscribe the same. –

You A B do make Oath on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God, that you have not imported in the Ship or Vessel called [blank] whereof you are Master during this present Voyage, except necessary Stores for the Use of the said Vessel, which are not for Sale, any Goods Wares or Merchandize whatsoever (if from Great Britain or Ireland say so (if from any other Place mention the Place) of the

Growth or Manufacture of Great Britain or Ireland, or any Goods exported from Great Britain or Ireland or any East India Tea, or any Molasses, Syrups, Pan-
eles Coffee or piemento of the Growth of the British West India Islands or Domi-
nica, or any Wines from Madeira or the Western Islands or foreign Indico or any
Slave or Slaves. –

Capt. Henry Tickle of the Brig *Henry & Joseph* from Liverpool adressd
to Mr George Woolsey appeared & reported on Oath his Cargo. consisting
of 5133 Bushels of British Salt, six half Crates of Earthen Ware, and one Hhd. of
Rum for Ships Stores, and further made Oath that he had not broken Bulk, or
landed any part of his Cargo since his Arrival in this Province –

Capt. George Woolsey the Consignee of the afd Vessell made Oath, that he
hath not, nor hath any Person by his order, or with his Privity or Consent, un-
laden or taken out any part of the Cargo imported in said Vessel since her Arrival
Sworn before Hers Courtney signed Geo. Woolsey

Messrs Mordecai Gist. Isaac Vanbebber John Cradock John Howard
and Isaac Grift are appointed to view the State of said Brig and Cargo and report
the same –

P. M

The Gent. appointed to view the Brig *Henry and Joseph* reported to the
Committee that they viewed and examined the said Vessel and the State of her
Cargo, that they found the Hatches caulked down, and the Salt sunk about one
foot, with the Marks of the Beams thereon, and that they were of Opinion, that
the said Cargo or any part thereof had not been broke or landed.

The Committee proceeded to consider the State of the Brig *Henry & Joseph*
and of the Cargo imported in the same

Resolved unanimously that the said Cargo be not landed –

Upon Application made by Capt Woolsey to the Committee for Leave to
reship the Cargoe of the Brig *Henry & Joseph*, and on Capt Woolsey his
engaging, that the said Cargo shall not be landed in any Part of North America
between Nova Scotia and Georgia & on his further Engagement, that the Master
of the Vessel, in which the said Cargoe is to be reshipped, shall engage on Oath,
that he will not unless compelled so to do by stress of Weather land the same
within the Parts before limited – and that he will produce a Certificate from the
Place, where the said Cargoe shall be landed of the Landing of the same.

Resolved that Leave be given agreable to the above.²

1. Balt. Com., LC.

2. See the numerous Woolsey letters on this subject.

South Carolina Gazette, MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1775

Charlestown March 13

On Monday last [March 6] his Majesty's sloop *Tamer*, commanded by Capt.
[Edward] Thornborough, fell down into Rebel[lion] Road, where she remains.

14 Mar.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*"¹

March 1775 Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour

Tuesday 14 A M sent an Officer & 10 Men in a Schooner up the river, with the Arms &c which was reced from the *Hope*.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

2. These arms were intended for the Loyalists being assembled at Freetown by Thomas Gilbert. See his letter of March 23, 1775.

JONATHAN HAMPTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION OF ELIZABETH TOWN, TO FRANCIS LEWIS, CHAIRMAN OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION¹

Sir,

Elizabeth Town, March 14, 1775

Inclosed I send you the affidavit of Samuel Lee, boatman, relative to the unloading part of the cargo of the Ship *Beulah*, which needs no comment.

I am, however, particularly desired by our Committee earnestly to request of your committee to protect Mr. Lee, as far as lies in their power, from any insults on account of this affair. He is a person well known here to be of good character, and who by his honesty and industry, has justly acquired the esteem of all the inhabitants of this town. And it is the opinion of our committee, he was unwarily led to act the part he did, as will in part appear by his affidavit. I will only add, that we should be glad that wherever the affidavit shall be read, this letter may be read also.

By order of the committee,

Jonathan Hampton, Chairman

1. *New York Journal*, March 23, 1775.

15 Mar.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO PHILIP DUMARISQUE, BOSTON MERCHANT¹

New London March 15, 1775

A few days agoe our Mutual Friend Thomas Mumford shew me a Letter from you recommending to send a Vessell to Cohasset Rather than Salem with West India Goods for the Boston Markett.² I have by bearer James Angell in the Schooner *Thames* Shipt a Cargo of Brown Sugars Consisting of Sixty Seven hogsheads and two teirces, which Sell for my Accot They Just now came in from Hispaniola, and I believe are of a good quality, we have not made any report at our Custom House and must leave the whole matter relative to the entry with you and paying the Duties, and would have you manage the matter so as to pay as little as possible for on that string my buisness with you will turn, and if I find you can do better or as well as at any other Port, its very probable I shall send you Severall Cargoes during this Summer. Capt Angell will call on Mr Stephenson att Cohasset as you desired for advice. I shall want Twenty hhds of Fish by the return of the Schooner, which must be Large and good and would have you Despatch her for N L as soon as poisible. If Capt Angell can git a

Stick for a foremast he will call on you for the money. Their is four hhds & two teirces of Sugar on board Markt 8 which is not so good as the Cargoe & must be sold Separate which you will take notice of in Accot Sales.

Mr. Ferrebault who is on board the Schooner as a French Capt has about one thousand wt of Coffee which you will be so kind as to assist in Landing &c. Have not to add but shall write you by the next post & am Sir, [&c.]

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

2. Shaw shipped to Cohasset or Salem to evade the British closure of Boston.

ROBERT AND JOHN MURRAY TO THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK ¹

Gentlemen, The annexed depositions contain as full and candid an account of the transaction relative to the landing the goods from the ship *Beulah*, as we are able to give; in the doing of which, we have studied to give the Committee, and our fellow citizens, the utmost Satisfaction we are capable of.

John Murray being obliged to go to Elizabeth Town, to take an inventory of the goods, found the Committee then sitting, and conceived it to be his duty, as the goods were within their jurisdiction, to give them notice thereof, and to make a full acknowledgment to them; upon doing which, they took, with his consent, possession of the goods as mentioned in the affadavit.

We still declare our readiness to reship the said goods as nearly as is now in our power, agreeable to the tenor of the [Continental] association, or to do otherwise with them, as the Committee of Elizabeth Town shall think proper to intimate or direct; and that we are also ready to give this committee any further satisfaction respecting the said goods; that they may recommend. Being desirous further to testify the sense we have of the imprudent measures we have taken, as well as our concern for the trouble and uneasiness it has given our fellow-citizens, we would wish to make such further satisfaction to the public, as might be most agreeable to them; and therefore do hereby cheerfully engage to give the sum of two hundred pounds towards repairing the Hospital in this city, lately destroyed by fire.²

We are, gentlemen [&c.]
New York, 15th March, 1775

Robert Murray
John Murray

1. *New York Journal*, March 23, 1775.

2. The hospital, which was nearly finished at Renelagh, was burned to the ground, February 28, 1775.

DEPOSITION OF JOHN MURRAY ¹

City of New York, ss

JOHN MURRAY, of the city of New York, merchant, being duly sworn, saith, that the above is a full, just, and true inventory of all the goods which were lately taken out of the ship *Beulah*, at Sandy-Hook by the Deponent, and were by him landed at Elizabeth-Town in New-Jersey.² That the deponent did, yesterday [March 14], voluntarily make an acknowledgment to the committee of Elizabeth Town, aforesaid, that he had so taken and landed the said goods; and did this day deliver the whole of the said goods, to the said Committee, who took the same into their custody and possession; where he believes the same now are.

That the boat in which the said goods were taken out of the said ship, belonged to Isaac Woodruff, which this deponent hired, for the purpose, of Samuel Lee, who was master of the said boat. That Mr. Woodruff did not know (as this deponent believes) for what purpose the said boat was hired, nor did the deponent inform the said Mr. Lee, on what business he wanted the said boat; nor did he appear to know, at the time the boat was hired, that he was employed on any business contrary to the [Continental] association. That the agreement with the said Lee, was only to go with the boat where he was directed, and to do what he was bid. That Mr. Ichabod Barnet, of Elizabeth Town, and Samuel Reade, of this city, went with the said Samuel Lee, in the said boat, down to the said ship, at the time aforesaid. That Mr. Barnet was acquainted with the design of the boat's going down to the said ship, but the deponent does not know that Mr. Read was previously acquainted with such design, tho' at the vessel he assisted in taking the said goods out by the direction of this deponent, in whose store he is an assistant. That John Graham, clerk to this deponent, and his partner, were on board the ship with the deponent, at the time when the Goods were taken out but did not see the goods taken out, being (as this deponent believes) asleep at that time in the cabin; and that his business on board was to copy invoices and letters; neither does this deponent know or believe that the said Graham ever heard any conversation between this deponent and any other person, respecting the taking out the said goods. That when the goods were on board the boat, the deponent, and all the other persons above mentioned, proceeded with her to Elizabeth Town, but stopped at Staten Island, where they all went on shore, and Graham and Reade took passage from thence in the Staten-Island ferry boat for New York; & the deponent, with Lee and Mr. Barnet proceeded from Staten Island to Elizabeth Town in the said boat, where all the said goods were landed by them, and put into Mr. Ichabod Barnet's store; that the said Ichabod Barnet had no Interest in the said goods, but what he did in the said business, was merely at the request of this deponent, and his said partner; and the deponent believes with an intention entirely to oblige them – That while the ship lay at the watering place, the Captain and this deponent, took into Kipp's small sailing boat, sundry small articles, the principal of which, the deponent believes, were presents, but does not know the particulars. That the deponent at the same time took into the said little boat, 2 small cheeses, about 200 lemons and oranges, and a dozen and 9 bottles beer, and about 2 bushels of potatoes for the use of the deponent and his brother: All which were brought up in the said boat, by this deponent and Capt. [William M.] Bussell; and the cheeses, and the other aforementioned articles, except the beer, were presents from the Captain. That in the whole of this transaction, so far as respects the delivery of the goods from on board the ship at the Hook, Capt. Bussell acted by the order and direction of this deponent and his partner, having no interest in the goods so delivered. And this deponent further saith, that he neither knows nor believes that any goods were taken out of the said ship after her arrival here, nor since her sailing from Sandy Hook except the baggage belonging to some passengers and except the goods hereinbefore enumerated and mentioned; nor that any other persons than those above mentioned, had any agency or concern in

taking out or landing the said goods, except the ship's crew, and except also one Marsh, who, at Elizabeth Town, accidentally passing by, was employed to assist in landing the same; but the deponent believes he did not know where the goods came from. And further saith not.

John Murray

Sworn the 15th day of March, 1775, before me,

Andrew Gautier

1. *New York Journal*, March 23, 1775.

2. For the inventory of the goods taken out of the *Beulah*, see March 16, 1775.

AFFIRMATION OF ROBERT MURRAY ¹

City of New-York, ss.

ROBERT MURRAY, of the said city, being duly affirmed according to law, doth declare and affirm, that so far forth as he is acquainted with the facts contained in the foregoing deposition, the same are true; and that he neither knows nor believes, that any more or other goods or things were taken out of the said ship *Beulah*, since her arrival here, than what are specified in the foregoing deposition; and that he believes no other person to have been concerned in the said business except those mentioned in this deposition.

Robert Murray

Affirmed the 15th of March, 1775. before me, Andrew Gautier

1. *New York Journal*, March 23, 1775.

16 Mar.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO PHILIP DUMARISQUE, BOSTON MERCHANT ¹

New London March 16, 1775

Sir the foregoing is a Coppy of what I wrote you by Capt [James] Angell who Sail'd this day with a Good Wind & hope he will arrive safe—I gave him orders to Sett his Jack at his foremast head that incase you had any fresh orders you may have an opportunity of conveying them on board before he comes to anchor In about three weeks I expect another Cargoe of Sugars which I shall send round the same way, if I have pleasing Sales of this Cargoe I shall want the pay soon and I make no doubt but you'l endeavour to get a good Price for them. should be Glad you would get what little Freight you can (at the same time not detain the Vessell) give my Compliments to Mr T & D M & tell them any freight they will put on board will be so much saved to them The Hubbards may have some freight I hope you will be at Cohasset so as to give Angell directions about Entering and to have no mistake or Difficulty, for I think I have had my share. Angell will Enter Just as you think will answe're, of this I must entirely leave with you and flatter myself you'l make all the saving you Can—Let me hear from you the return of the post with the price Current, Politiks &c—I am Dr Sir [&c.]

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

JOURNAL OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK ¹

Committee Chamber [New York], 16th March, 1775

The Committee met by adjournment this evening at the Exchange.

Mr. [Francis] Lewis, from the Sub-Committee appointed to state the case of Messrs. Robert Murray and John Murray, respecting their having landed goods from on board the ship *Beulah*; report a letter from the Committee of Elizabeth Town to this Committee, which letter is in the words following, viz.

[Insert letter of March 10, 1775]

The said Sub Committee further report another letter to the Committee, from the Committee of Elizabeth Town, which is in the words following, viz.

[Insert letter of March 11, 1775]

The said Sub Committee also report, that on the same evening, and before this Committee had received any further evidence respecting this matter, Messrs. Murrays voluntarily produced to this Committee at their meeting on the 13th March instant, a letter in the words following.

[Insert letter of March 13, 1775]

And that they did then offer to make a full and ample confession of every fact relative to the unloading goods from the *Beulah*, and to deliver to the Committee, at their then next meeting, a full state of the case, under their oath and affirmation.

The said Sub Committee further report, that Mess. J and R. Murray did accordingly deliver a state of that transaction, which is in the words following, viz.

Inventory of Goods taken out of the Ship *Beulah* at Sandy Hook. 84 Bolts of Russia duck, – 20 Pieces of Raven ditto. – 240 Packs of Pins – 5 Bales of pepper, 2 of which are in hhd. – 65 bolts Oznaburgs.² – 10 pieces blue strouds³ – 14 pieces Irish linen. – 6 pieces white Hessen.⁴ 11 pieces Irish sheeting – 1 paper bundle directed to Henry Van Vleck – 1 bundle straw, supposed a case maker's cusear – 1 smallbox of books, papers &c – Wrapper for the strouds, – With wrappers for said goods.

[Insert Deposition of John Murray and affirmation of Robert Murray, both of March 15, 1775]

The said sub-committee further report, that the said Messrs. Robert Murray, and John Murray did write a letter to this committee accompanying the said state of the case; which letter is in the words following:

[Insert letter of March 15, 1775]

The said sub-committee further report another letter from the committee of Elizabeth Town, enclosing an affidavit of Samuel Lee; . . .

[Insert letter of March 14, with deposition of March 13, 1775]
which report being read,

Resolved, That this Committee do approve thereof. And ordered, that the same be published, Agreeable to the directions of the 11th article of the Association.
By order of the Committee,

Isaac Low, *Chairman*.

1. *New York Journal*, March 23, 1775.
2. Osnaburg, a cloth made from low grade cotton.
3. Strouds, a cloth getting its name from Stroud, a town in Gloucestershire, England.
4. Hessian, a coarse cloth made of hemp, or a mixture of hemp and jute.

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL ¹

Extracts from a Council held at the Governors on Thursday the 16th day of March
Anno Domini 1775

Were present

His Excellency Robert Eden Esqr

Daniel Dulany Esqr	Daniel of St Thos Jenifer Esqr
George Stewart Esqr	and
William Fitzhugh Esqr	Benjamin Ogle Esqr

His Excellency was pleased to lay before the Board the following Deposition of Mr Robert Stratford Byrne Surveyor of His Majesty's Customs at Sassafras & Bohemia, Vizt Here the Deposition is Entered (Copy of which was transmitted from the Custom House at Chester)

Which said Deposition was Read, as also Mr Byrne's Commission and Instructions. —

Mr Byrne, being present alledged that he made Seizure of the Waggon, because he apprehended it to be his duty, as the Waggoners did not produce Cockets for the Goods they had in their waggon when he called upon them to produce them, being of opinion that goods ought not to be carried by Land from one Colony to another without Cockets for the articles carried — That it was the view of the Commissioners at Boston, that he should exert himself to prevent an Intercourse by Land between Pennsylvania & Maryland unless Cockets were produced, and that he was made to expect an Income of £500 P annum, but that his Salary was very short of that sum, and that no Vessels entered or cleared in Bohemia (called *Bahana* in his Commission) or Sassafras the places where he is appointed to act as Surveyor

On Consideration of the aforesaid Deposition, the Board advise His Excellency in respect of the Violence complained of by Mr Byrne to Instruct the Attorney General to require his Deputy acting in the County where the said Violence is alledged to have been committed, to enquire into the matter, and if cause for it should appear, to apply to some Magistrate for proper process against those who have broken the Peace, in order that they may be punished according to Law, and also further advise, that a copy of Mr Byrne's Deposition be delivered to the Attorney General, the better to enable him to give Instructions to his Deputy

True Extract

(signed) James Brooks Cl: Con. of Maryld.

1. MdHS Transcript from PRO, Treasury Papers, Bundle 438.

JOSIAH MARTIN, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir,

North Carolina New Bern March 16th 1775

I should have paid my respects to your Excellency oftner since your return to your command in America if I had not been restrained by the consideration of your having your hands too full of employment to admit of complimentary intrusions.

The state of this Province has been till lately so perfectly like that of the neighbouring Colonies that I have had nothing material to communicate to your Excellency in relation to it, and in your present circumstances I thought it un-availing to detail to you the growth and progress of sedition and revolt in this Country that hath been in no sort particular, while I was assured your Excellency could afford me no effectual remedy against the present Spirit of Licentiousness.

The case Sir is now altered; the people in some parts of this Country begin to open their eyes and see through the artifices and delusions by which they have been misled, and they discover good dispositions to renounce the power and authority of the committees that have been appointed by the recommendation of the Congress which have proceeded in some instances to arbitrary and intolerable exertions of power, and they appear inclined to disengage themselves entirely from the bondage which those little combinations seem to be preparing for them. Many of the Inhabitants in several Counties of this Province have already by their addresses to me disclaimed all obedience to those illegal tribunals and expressed in the strongest terms the most loyal and dutiful attachment to his Majesty and the firmest resolution to maintain and defend the Constitution and Laws of their country. I have given every encouragement in my power to these good presages and I have no doubt that the people in the Western Counties of this Province, which are by far the most populous, will generally unite in support of Government in this case, and with the aid of a considerable Body of Highlanders in the mid-land counties who have already given me the best proofs of their attachment to government and in whose zeal and steadfast Loyalty I can safely confide if your Excellency shall assist me with two or three Stand of arms and good store of ammunition, of which last we are totally destitute, I will be answerable to maintain the Sovereignty of this Country to his Majesty if the present spirit of resistance which runs high in Virginia and has infected many parts of this Colony should urge matters to the extremity that the People of New England seem to be meditating if any credit may be given to the insulting Gasconading of their abettors among us.

As the movements of this part of the continent will be governed by the impulses of the people of New England your Excellency by your observation of them will be a judge of the proper season to strengthen the hands of the friends to Government here with the aids I have mentioned.

I am told it has been moved in one of the Committees to attack Fort Johnston, but the motion was overruled and I believe they will think of it often before they execute such a design. If contrary to my expectations however an attempt of this sort is made, it will be to be lamented that the Fort is totally unprovided with powder but I am sure under every circumstance I may expect the most reso-

lute defence of it from the Gallantry of Captain [John A.] Collet – to whom I wish your Excellency may think it expedient to send a supply of powder.

Mrs Martin desires to join me in best Compliments to your Excellency and to Mrs Gage and your Family

I have the honor to be &c.

Jo. Martin

1. Saunders, comp. *Records of North Carolina*, IX, 1166–1168.

17 Mar.

ROBERT STRATFORD BYRNE TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF HIS MAJESTY'S
CUSTOMS IN AMERICA ¹

(Copy)

Annapolis 17th March 1775

Honble Sirs In hopes of your protection by my Conduct I must beg leave to trouble you with a more circumstantial account of my Situation Since my Elopement that you may form your judgment how I am to proceed hereafter, nor have I been in a Situation of doing it sooner, being mostly confined to my Bed since my Arrival here owing to the unhumane treatment I met with the 2d Instant the effects of which I dread feeling some time hereafter.

Having every relyance in the Justness of my cause I doubt not your Honors will exert your Authority by taking some method for my future protection nor is it ever possible I can return to my Station again without the utmost Hazard of my Life as I've frequent Information how the People are prejudiced against me only for exerting an Honest duty which I was obligated to perform. The Department of Surveyor of Sassafras & Bohemia was never intended to be executed only possessed by Gentlemen for years past who were always absent & looked upon as Signacures [Sinecures] but unfortunately I being the first Stationed there alarmed the People with such notions of Infringment that I was often engaged in abetting their mistaken notions. Not that the place is an object to Government but upon the whole Burthensome nor will it be ever possible where a Country is so divided for honest Men to Act without the Assistance of a Military force, as nothing dwells amongst us in the Shadow of Magistrty notwithstanding the prodigious Counterband Trade carried on here between the two Provinces which they have enjoyed without Molestation a Centry past & should not other measures be adopted to prevent it rest assured Honble Sirs it will be ever claimed as their Birth right This I affirm by a watchful Observation – My private Losses sustained by this Barbarous affair in Cloaths Money New Fuzee &ca may amount to about £20 Sterling exclusive of other Expences in coming here & Doctors attendance nor dare I return to get some Necessaries in dread of another Assault when Fled leaving every thing I possessed behind; Compassionatly I entreat your Honors benevolence that you wont see me a Sufferer as the Losses I sustained was in the execution of my Duty

From your Honors Candor you must Suppose my stay here at this Juncture attended with many Inconveniencies &ca I cannot be of Service to the State at present from the low State of my Health owing to the unhumane Treatment I recieved I must entreat your Honors permition of returning to Europe for 2 years

or till such times as the Temper of the People are abated that I may return with safty again & as I am unfortunately involved on my Department to about £60 Sterling I must beg your Honors indulgence to advance it on my pay that I may quit them more Honourable than they treated me which should I be unfortunately ordered to my Department again may make me meet with a more favourable reception

I rely on your Honors good officers in endeavouring to bring the Delinquents to Justice as I trust my Conduct will meet with your approbation & that you will from the Narrative and the Collectors Letter take a favourable opportunity of representing me to the Treasury to whom I am going to Sollicit my removal [&c.]

Rob^t Stratford Byrne

1. MdHS Transcript from PRO, Treasury Papers, Bundle 438.

18 Mar.

JOHN WAITE TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

Sir

Falmouth March 18th 1775

A sacred regard to american association on the one hand and an earnest desire not to injure my fellow subjects in Great Britain on the other is the reason of my writing you at this time to request your advice for my future conduct and also to confirm or set me right in my judgment in a late affair that has happend in this Port the case is as follows a Vessell arivd here from Bristol the 2d inst with rigging and sails for a new Ship owned by a Mercht in Bristol in order to carry his Ship home – The question was whether the puting said rigging and sails on board said Ship which had been ready to receive them ever since Last fall and go immediately back with them to England would be a breach of the association – I was of opinion that it would not being one of the Committee of Inspection. your answer will very much Oblige

Sir [&c.]

John Waite

P:S: the mercht that owned said rigging and sails did not know of the american association when he shipd them John Adams Esqr

1. Adams Family Papers, MassHS. Materials drawn from the Adams Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society are copyrighted and are printed by special permission of the Society. Waite was a selectman of Falmouth.

19 Mar. (Sunday)

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 19th [March, 1775]

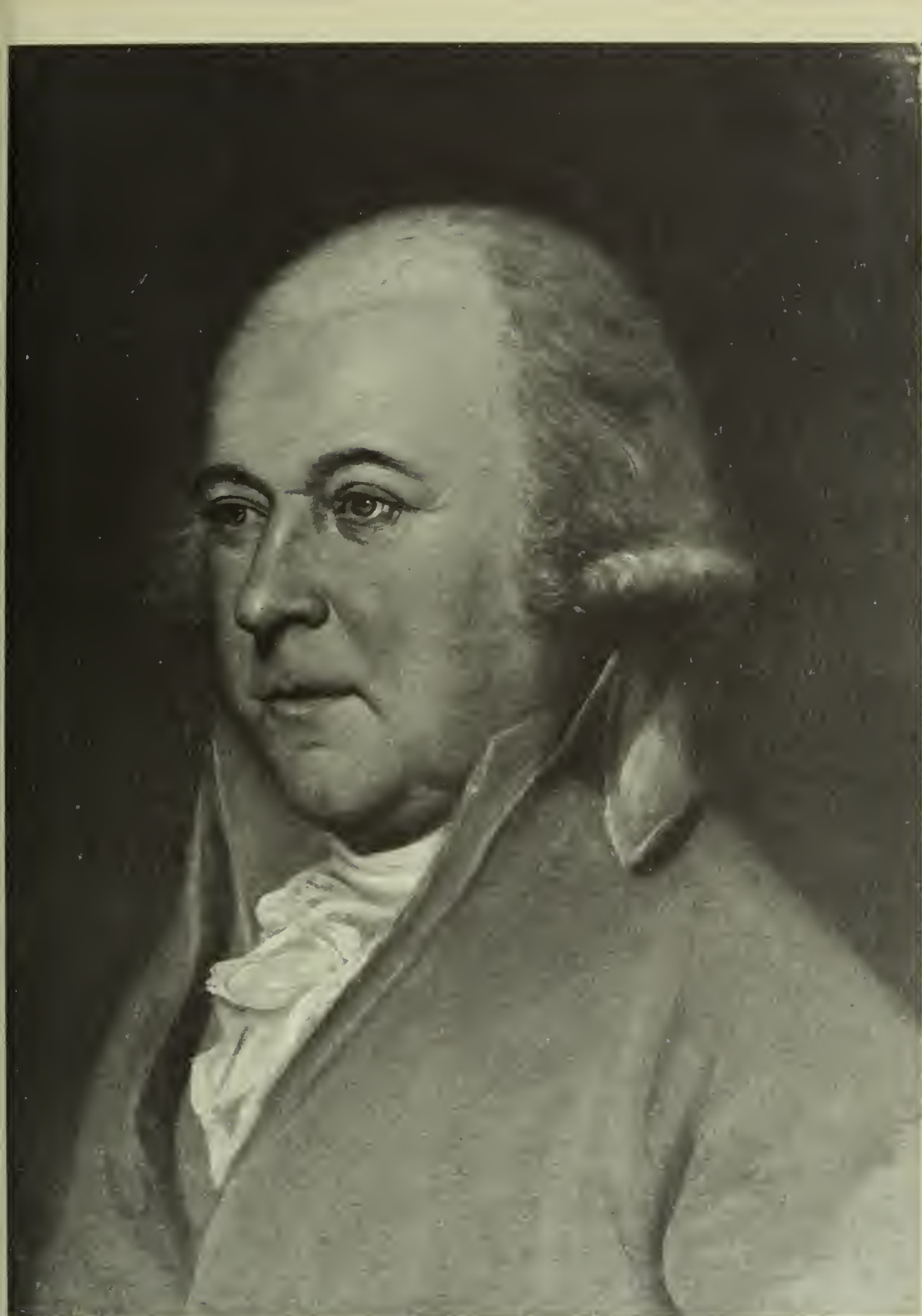
The *Hope* Schooner returned with the Shirts and Equipage for the battalion of Marines which the *Diana* had Orders to call for.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 61, MassHS Transcript.

WOOLSEY AND SALMON TO JAMES FORDE, DROGHEDA ¹

[Baltimore] 19h March 1775

We had the pleasure of writing you under the 1st Inst since then have not had the pleasure of hearing from you. we have now in our possession Yr Sundry favours to our G. Salmon which shall be Carefully attended to, and yr Interist



John Adams. By Charles Willson Peale, c. 1791-94.

we shall consult as if our own. we can now Inform you that tickell ² arrived here the 10th Inst his Salt in good order no doubt ere this you are Satisfyed it Cannot be landed here. which Circumstance has distressd us on yr Acct We have got permission to Ship it (to any place that is not within the General association, & have procured the Schooner *Betsy Isaac Snow* Mastr to go to Hallifax in Novascotia with a load. he has now on board 3660 bushels & will Sail in two days we are to give him five pence half penny Sterl p bushel freight, & shall consign it to one Mr Thos. Cochran we learn is a Man of good Character. we wrote the 11th Inst to Mr [Thomas] Greg about the Schooner, but Could not then give him the Quantity she had in. the Remndr of the Salt we are putting in a Vessel for Florada but are not sure whether we will Ship It for Yr Acct or sell it, but shall Endeavour to sell it if take Less than first Cost for it as we think it will be better for you. We hope our mode of proceeding in this Unfortunate Affair will meet your Approbation, & be assured we had no other method of proceeding with Safety to yr property as we had an Instance of a Man in this town being obliged to throw over part his Salt into the Water on Acct of his Endeavouring to land some of his Cargo, & we think if what he has Saved & sent to other places can be found that it will be destroyed also we shall Endeavour to get Tickell Loaded in two Weeks, but in three we make no doubt of his Sailing. We Cannot yet tell how much he will Carry, but he thinks about 7000 bushels we have about 2500 bushels Ready for him which has Cost 6/6 but as he did not Appear as soon as was Expected, & prices getting lower we Stopped buying untill he arrived and we hoap to get the Remainder at Six Shillings (which is now the price) if people are not foolish in Raising it. however be assured we shall do our best. flour 15/ PCt but shall be obliged to give 16/ for the Half barrells. Ex. hardly 57½ for 30 day bills & Expected lower 60 day bills will not fetch more than 55 p we wish you could for your own sake allow us to draw at thirty days, when we find it difficult to Sell those of a longer Sight. we wish if possible [to] Avoid Drawing on you till the bills of Loading are Signd but if we should be under the Necessity of doing so, we hope it will meet Yr Approbation you will no doubt see that you Cannot Expect the Salt brought to yr Credit under the present Circumstances, but if we had got liberty to sell it here we should have sold it for Cash, tho it would not have left much proffet, as there is now great Quantitys on Hands in this place we have not as yet been able to get a Vessell for Yr other Cargo of wheat & Flour.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Captain Henry Tickell of the brig *Henry & Joseph*.

20 Mar.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA ¹

[Wilmington] Monday, March 20th 1775

Resolved, That the Importers of negroes since the 1st of December last, be called upon at the next General meeting of this Committee on the 20th of April next, to produce Bills of Loading, or other sufficient proof to the Committee, that they have reshipped the said negroes agreeable to the resolve of the General Congress as directed by this Committee.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, IX, 1168. See also December 14 and 17, 1774.

South Carolina Gazette, MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1775

Charlestown, March 20.

Last Tuesday [March 14] Mr. Robert Smyth, Merchant, Master Smyth, his son, and Master Ward son of John Ward, Esq, returned here from London, in the snow *Proteus*, Capt. Papley, having touched at Falmouth and St. Christopher's by the Way.

The said Vessel having on board (besides 7 Cases of Merchandise, said to be Globes and mathematical Instruments consigned to Mr. Robert Wells, 1 hogshead, 1 Puncheon, 7 casks, 13 Cases, 5 Crates, and 1 Bottle, said to contain Drugs and Medicines, consigned to Mr. Edward Gunter) 2 Puncheons, 1 Box, 1 Tierce, 40 Bundles, 9 Cases, and 7 Hampers, said to contain Household Furniture, and 2 Horses, belonging to Mr. Smyth, all which he declared, were brought out by him on the Supposition that it was not meant, by the Continental Association, to prohibit the Importation of such Articles, and had been in Use in his Family in England; and the Committee of Observation requested the Sense of the General Committee respecting said Horses and Furniture. This matter accordingly came under the Consideration of the General Committee on Wednesday Evening, 33 Members present; when, after a long Debate, whether the landing the said Horses and Furniture, might not be construed a Violation of the Association, there appeared to be an equal Number for and against that Opinion, and the Question was put, Whether Mr. Smyth's Horses, under the Circumstances they had been represented, might be Landed, it was carried in the Affirmative by the Chairman's casting Vote. It was at the same Time resolved, without a Division upon the Question, that such Part of Mr. Smyth's Furniture as, upon inspection by the Committee of Observation, should appear to them, to have been in Use in his family (but no other) might also be landed. The next Morning a great Number of the Inhabitants appeared extremely uneasy, lest, from the Admission of the Horses, it should be suggested, that there was an Inclination in this Colony to depart from the Association; they feared, that the Conduct of the People, which had always been consistent, and who continued remarkable strict in their Adherence to the Resolves and Recommendations of the Congress, might in this Instance, be misrepresented abroad, their Zeal for the Reputation of their Country threw them into great Agitation; none meant the least Reflection on the Conduct of their Committee, but all wished that the two Horses might not be landed; yet they were then at a Loss what Measure might be most proper to pursue. On Friday Morning, however, a Petition was agreed on, and, after having 256 Names subscribed thereto, presented to the Chairman of the General Committee, in the following Words:

"We, a Number of the Inhabitants of Charles-town, conceive, that our Liberties at this Time depend on our Unanimity and Confidence in our Committee, who, we doubt not, in all things, will act according to the best of their Judgment for the Publick Good. But your Petitioners are informed that, by a Vote carried by a very small Majority, divers Horses and Furniture are permitted to be landed; which many persons, who have the liberty of America much at heart, think an infringement of the Association entered into by the General

Congress: In order, therefore, to quiet the Minds of the People, we pray that there may be a Reconsideration of the said Matter in a full Committee." In consequence of this Petition, the said Committee was summoned to meet that evening; but no more than 42 Members then attending, it was thought advisable to adjourn till Monday morning, 9 o'Clock, in order that, if it should be thought necessary to reconsider the Matter, it might be done at a very full Meeting. Accordingly this Morning a very full Committee met, not less than 70 members being present, when the above Petition was taken into Consideration – the Resolves of Wednesday, respecting the Horses, rescinded, by a majority of one vote; and a Resolution entered into, that they should be sent back, with the Merchandise and Furniture (if any) that should appear not to have been in Use. A general satisfaction was expressed upon this Occasion, and the Quiet of the community seems to be perfectly restored.¹

1. A detailed account of this controversy may be found in John Drayton, *Memoirs of the American Revolution from its Commencement to the Year 1776, as related to South Carolina* (Charleston, 1821). Hereafter cited as Drayton, *American Revolution*.

21 Mar.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

[Boston] 21st [March, 1775]

The *Spinckes* [*Sphynx*] Sloop (formerly Tender to the *Canceaux* on the Survey) sailed for Piscataqua with the Admirals Order to Captain [Andrew] Barkley to send the *Canceaux* to Halifax to be hove down and have the damage she received by running aground repaired, and Lieut. [Henry] Mowat her Commander, had Orders, when the Ship should be compleated again to proceed on the Survey as usual under the direction of Captain [Samuel] Holland.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 61, 62, MassHS Transcript.

MINUTES OF THE NORFOLK COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION¹

Committee Chamber, Norfolk, Va., March 21, 1775.

To the Publick.

We, the Committee for Norfolk Borough, find ourselves under the disagreeable necessity of publishing to the world the conduct of Captain Sampson, Master of the Snow *Elizabeth*, from Bristol. It is not in one instance alone that he has discovered his opposition to the measures adopted for the security of our rights and liberties, nor can he, on any account, justify his repeated prevarications. It is not our business to take notice of his passionate and disrespectful behaviour towards this Committee, nor his indiscreet conduct without doors. We shall confine ourselves to the relation of the following facts: On the 13th day of February he informed the Committee of his arrival with a quantity of Salt, that his Snow wanted repairs, and as he should find it necessary to heave her down here, he demanded the consent of this Committee to store the Salt till the Snow could be

refitted. The Committee, after careful inquiries, (some of his answers to which we find to be false,) did, at length, consent, upon condition the Salt should be taken on board again as soon as possible, which Captain Sampson promised to do. Thus matters rested till the 8th of March, when this Committee were surprised with information, that he had given bond at the Custom-House, and was taking in Lumber without the Salt. He was sent for, and after discovering a great degree of heat, did, at length, give his repeated promise to take the Salt on board as soon as possible, and that he would begin the next day. More than a week, however, has elapsed, and he has as yet complied with no part of his promise, nor taken any of the Salt on board again, but has actually applied for protection to the Ship-of-War now in this harbour, under whose stern the Snow lies, where it appears he intends to load with Grain.² We, the Committee, do therefore declare Captain Sampson a violator of the Association, and an enemy to American liberty; and we trust the Merchants, Planters, and Skippers of Vessels in this Colony, will make him feel their righteous indignation, by breaking off all kinds of dealings with him, and that they will, in no wise, be aiding or assisting in procuring a cargo for a man, who, from the whole tenour of his late conduct, has openly set the good people of this Country at defiance, and contributed his utmost endeavours to destroy their most essential interests.

Matthew Phripp

James Taylor

John Hutchings

John Lawrence

Thomas Ritson

John Boush

Robert Taylor

T. Claiborne

Samuel Inglis

Extract from the minutes:

William Davies, Secretary

N.B. The other Members of the Committee were out of Town at the time of signing.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 174, 175.

2. See Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, April 7, 1775, for the conclusion of this affair.

22 Mar.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston 22 March 1775

As there appears to me a necessity for sending one of His Majesty's Ships to New York to protect the Persons and Property of His Majesty's trading Subjects, and to assist and co-operate with the Lieutenant Governor against the designs of those who are acting in open Violation of the Laws, I have appointed Captain [George] Vandeput of His Majesty's Ship *Asia* to this Service; but in the low state of his Ship's Company from the Mode of manning her at Home and from deaths and desertions since her arrival, I cannot venture to send her to New York without compleating the Marines, at least, to the War Complement I shall therefore be obliged to your Excellency to order a Detachment of fifty private Marines (if possible of the Portsmouth Division) together with a Captain, One Serjeant

and one Corporal, to embark on board the *Asia* any day this Week your Excellency pleases. I have the honor to be with great respect and regard Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

1. Gage Papers, CL.

WILLIAM GOOSLEY TO NEIL JAMIESON ¹

Dr sir/

York [Va.] 22d March 1775

Will you be so kind as put the two Letters now inclosed on board the first two Vessells that offer for the West Indies. The Craft that carries this has in a large part of the Corn for Harvey's Brig & I have taken the liberty of directing Him to apply to you a Fan to run it thro – I will pay the Hire of one if you'll please to procure it for Him.

To save trouble & expence, we have concluded to buy the Staves we want at Norfolk, & shall be much obliged to you if any offer, to engage us 7½ m White Oak staves & 2½ m of Heading which my Brother will pay Cash for next week when He will be down to ship them. I am Dr Sir [&c.]

W^o Goosley

1. Neil Jamieson Papers, vol. 20, LC.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Cruizer*, FRANCIS PARRY, COMMANDING ¹

March 1775

Cape Fear River Snow Point NWBN 1 Mile.

Tuesday 22nd Arriv'd at No Carolina, & took the Command of his Majesty's Sloop *Cruizer* from Capt [Tyringham] Howe who was promoted: . . .²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

2. Captain Parry, according to his journal, had received his commission from Vice Admiral Samuel Graves in Boston on January 12, 1775, and next day "Set out by land (there being no opportunity by water from the Port being shut) to join the *Cruizer* at No Carolina."

23 Mar.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston March 23d 1775.

Sir, I received this Morning your Letter of Yesterday desiring that a Detachment consisting of a Captain, One Serjeant, One Corporal, and Fifty private Marines may be ordered on Board his Majesty's Ship *Asia*, which you propose sending to New York. I will beg to observe to you that by the Earl of Dartmouth's Letter to me on the Subject of the Marines sent out to reinforce his Majesty's Troops here, that his Lordship calculates them to Amount to about Six Hundred Men,² Whereas not quite four Hundred have been landed.

That the present Moment is a critical One, his Majesty's final Orders being daily expected, on all the Transactions of this Country, And the Faction now Assembled at Concord endeavoring to procure a vote to call out all their Forces into the Field, so that I may be in want immediately of every Man I shall be able to collect.

In such a Situation I cannot Answer the Weakning the Force I have by any means at present, and Judge it absolutely Necessary to Wait the King's Orders, before I venture such a Step,

I am, Sir, &ca,

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. Dartmouth to Gage, 17 October, 1774; . . . "the only thing that we can do for the present, is to order three of the Guard Ships to proceed immediately to Boston – Vizt – the *Boyne* the *Somerset*, and the *Asia*; and to take with them over and above their compliment of Marines, as many men as can be spared from the different quarters, so that the number will probably not fall much short of 600 Men, and as there may possibly be occasion for their landing they will be commanded by a Field Officer not above the rank of Major." Gage Papers, CL.

THOMAS GILBERT TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, COMMANDING H.M.S. *Rose*,
NEWPORT ¹

Per Mr. Phillips

Freetown 23d March 1775

Honoble. sr Since my Wrigting the Lines on the 21th. by Mr. Philips maney Insults and Thretts are and have ben made a gainst those Soldiers Which have Taken out arms and train and Exersize in the Kings name, and on monday next the Captns. muster at the South part of the Town, when we have Grate Reason to fear that thousands of the Rebels will attack me: and Take our Lives or the Kings arms or perhaps both – I Sr ask the favour of one of his Majestys Tenders, or Sum other Vessel of force might be at or Near Bowerses in order if any of our People Should be obligd. to Retreat they may be taken on bord, which nothing but the Last Extremity will oblige them to quit the Ground

I am your obedient Humbe. Servent

Sign'd Thos Gilbert

1. *Newport Mercury*, April 24, 1775; "The following we have received as an authentic copy of a letter lately discovered."

24 Mar.

Salem Gazette, FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1775

Salem, March 24.

Wednesday last the Schooner —, commanded by Capt. Lee, lately arrived from Dominica, was seized at Cape-Ann, by his Majesty's Ship *Lively*, for Breach of the Acts of Trade.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] Mar. 24 [1775]

The two Murrays,² Owners of the Ship *Bealah*, had unladen a part of the cargo secretly & landed it at Elizabeth Town. The Committees detected the fraud & Imposition, as the public tho' the ship was sent back without breakg Bulk. The public Resentment and Vengeance rose against these eminent Merchants. They found themselves in a bad state – made a confession of the whole matter (before the Committees had really gotten the Goods) offered to send them back and give £200 to rebuilding the N. York Hospital, and any other Concessions to the public Acceptance.

1. Stiles, II, 25, LC.

2. Robert and John Murray.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA ¹

[Wilmington] Tuesday, March, 24th, 1775

Messrs. George and Thos. Hooper, reported Sundry dry goods of[f] the *Peggy*, Graham, Commander, from Leith, shipped to their address which they desired the committee to take into consideration and direct what should be done with the dry goods.

Ordered, That the said Goods be not landed, but sent back to Great Britain, as directed by the 10th Article of the General Association, and Mr. John Robeson is desired (as a member of this committee) to go on board the said vessel, and take an account of the goods on board, with their marks and numbers, and on her being ready to sail for Great Britain to examine the said goods with his account before taken.

Captain Oldfield reported two negroes shipped to his address of[f] the Schooner *Bedford*, Capt. Benney, which were ordered to be re-shipped, and was complied with by Capt. Oldfield.

1. Loring, ed., *Safety Committee of Wilmington, N.C.*, 26-27.

25 Mar.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1775

Providence, March 25.

The latter end of the week before last, 56 firearms, bayonets &c. with several casks of powder, were delivered out of a scooner, in our enemies service, to Thomas Gilbert, of Freetown, and his infamous associates, to counteract the measures adopted by the colonies for the preservation of their liberties.

DIARY OF THE SALEM MORAVIAN CONGREGATION OF NORTH CAROLINA ¹

March 25 [1775]. From the gathering at Richmondtown Court-House to-day we hear that Mr. James Clan ² and Lanier ³ were elected Delegates to the [Provincial] Congress, and were given instructions not to mix in the matter of the Bostonians, but instead to bestir themselves to have wholesome laws made for the country.

1. Fries, ed., *Moravians in North Carolina*, II, 869.

2. James Glen, a Loyalist.

3. Robert Lanier, an active "Liberty Man."

27 Mar.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1775

Newport, March 27.

We have received an exact list of those deluded wretches, who have been prevailed on by Thomas Gilbert, of Freetown, to take up arms against their country; whose names we shall expose properly, in a short time, if they do not renounce their wicked principles and practices very soon: and it is hoped the good people of this town will carefully avoid trading with any of those *vile* enemies to American liberty.

DASHWOOD BACON TO THE PRINTER OF *Pennsylvania Packet* ¹

Sir, Seeing in your Paper of Monday, March 13th, a most scandalous, false and base representation of the conduct of a Gentleman and boat's crew belonging to the King's armed Schooner *Diana*, I must, as a lover of truth, and being privy to the whole matter respecting George Taylor, of Wilmington, beg leave to assure the public, that he was not struck or in any manner molested (though he used many provoking speeches) 'till he took hold of the Gentleman on duty by the collar, who then struck Taylor one blow, the matter there ending, as Taylor did not return it; neither was he taken along-side the Schooner, having produced the proper papers.

Dashwood Bacon.

We, whose names are here under mentioned, from our personal knowledge of Mr. Bacon, as a Gentleman and a Man of Honour, are convinced he would not sign to any thing that was not strictly true. And we do further aver on our Honor, that the shallop was not brought alongside, or detained longer than is usual in examining vessels.

John Dowson, Master.
John Birthwhistle, Surgeon.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, March 27, 1775.

29 Mar.

JOHN BROWN TO THE MASSACHUSSETTS COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE ¹

[Extract]

Montreal March 29th 1775

Gentlemen Immediately after the Reception of your Letters & Pamphlets, I went to Albany to find the State of the Lakes . . . I found the Lakes impassable at that time – About a Fortnight after I set out for Canada and arrived at St Johns in 14 Days having undergone most inconceivable hardships the Lake Champlain being very high, the Small Streams Rivers, and a great Part of the Country for Twenty Miles each side of the Lake especially toward Canada under Water; the Lake Champlain was partly open & partly covered with Dangerous Ice, which breaking loose for Miles in length caught our Craft drove us agt an Island and froze us in for 2 Days after which we were glad to foot it on Land.

I deliver'd your Letters to Mss. Thos Walker & Blake and was very Kindly reced by the Committee of Correspondence at Montreal, from whom I received the following state of Affairs in the Province of Quebec. Govr [Guy] Carleton is no gt Pollition, a Man of a Sower morose Temper, a strong Friend to Administration, and the late Acts of the British Parliament, which respect America, perticularly the Quebec Bill, has restrained the Liberty of the Press that nothing can be printed witht examination & Licence. application has been made to him for printing the Address from the Continental Congress, and a refusal obtain'd. All the Troops in this Province are ordered to hold themselves in radiness for Boston on the shortest Notice, 4 or 5 hundred Snowshoes are prepared for what use they know not – Mr Walker has wrote you about three Weeks since, and has been very explicit he informs you that Two Regular Officers Lieuts have gone of[f] in disguise, sup-

posed to be gone to Boston, & to make what discovery they can through the Country – I have the pleasure and Satisfaction to inform you that through the industry and exertions of our Friends in Canada, our Enemies are not at present able to raise Ten Men for Administration. . . . Several French Gentlemen from Montreal have paid the Governor a Visit and offered him their Services as officers to raise a Canadian Army and join the Kings Troops, the Govr told them he could get Officers in plenty but the difficulty consisted in raising Soldiers.

There is no prospect of Canada sending Delegates to the Continental Congress; the Difficulty consists in this, Should the English Join in the non importation agreemt the French would immediately monop[o]lize the Indian Trade – The French in Canada are a set of People that know no other way of procuring Wealth and honour but by becoming Court Sycophants, and as the introduction of the French Law will make room for the French Gentry, they are very thick about the Governer – You may depend that should any movement be made among the French to join agt the Colonies your Friends here will give the shortest Notice possible, and the Indians on their part have ingaged to do the same, so that you have no reason to expect to be surprised witht Notice should the worst event take place . . .

One thing I must mention to be kept as a profound secret, the Fort at Tyconderoga must be seised as soon as possible should hostilities be committed by the Kings Troops. The People on N Hampshire grant have ingaged to do this Business and in my opinion they are the most proper Persons for this Jobb. This will effectually curb this Province, and all the Troops that may be sent here –

As the Messenger to carry this Letter has been waiting some time with Impatience must Conclude by Subscribing myself Gentlemen [&c.]

J Brown ²

To Mess. Saml Adams, Doctr Jos Warren &c

Committee of Correspondence in Boston

I am this Minute informed that Mr Carleton has ordered that no Wheat go out of the River untill further order, the Design is Obvious –

1. Mass. Arch., 193.

2. Brown (1744–1780) was then an agent in Montreal for the Boston Committee of Correspondence.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE ¹

[Boston] 29th [March, 1775]

The Detachment under Capt Balfour of the 4th continues at Marshfield – Pay and Provisions are sent to them once a fortnight.

1. *Mackenzie*, I, 14.

Maryland Journal, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1775

Baltimore, March 29.

We can assure the Public, that the Salt imported in the Brig *Sally*, Capt. [William] Moat, was thrown overboard and destroyed, in Consequence of a Resolve of the Committee of the county, that it should not be landed but in Nova Scotia or Georgia ¹

1. See Minutes of the Baltimore Committee of Observation, March 6, 1775

30 Mar.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston March 30th 1775.

Sir, When I had the Pleasure of seeing you Yesterday I mentioned the Disturbance at Falmouth on Account of a Sloop from Bristol with rigging for a Ship built there by Captain Thomas Courson [Coulson], and read you a Letter from the Sheriff, who wished that a Ship of War was sent there. As you have so many stations to guard I am no Judge how far you will be able to comply with his Request, but take the Liberty to lay the Matter before you, and am satisfied you will grant the Town of Falmouth all the Aid and Protection in your Power to give.

I am with regard and Esteem Sir, &ca.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston 30th of March 1775.

At present I can only endeavour to protect Captain [Thomas] Courson's Ship and the Vessel with Rigging from Bristol, about which Your Excellency is pleased to inform me there are great disturbances at Falmouth; The *Canceaux* is the only Ship I can spare, the rest in this Neighbourhood being employed at places where, I trust your Excellency is satisfied, their presence is indispensably necessary; And although the *Canceaux* is under Orders to go to Halifax, to repair some damage We suspect She received laying aground at Piscatagua last January, I have notwithstanding ordered Captain [Andrew] Barkley to send her away with all possible Expedition, and to direct Lieutenant [Henry] Mowat to assist the New Ship till she can go to Piscatagua, or Salem; at either of which Places She can fit and compleat under the Protection of the Kings Ship there. While the *Canceaux* remains at Falmouth I hope her presence will be some Check to the common disturbers, and I shall very readily station some other Vessel at that place whenever it is in my power. I am with great Respect, and Regard Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

1. Gage Papers, CL.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 30th [March, 1775]

The *Margueritta* hired Schooner was ordered to be manned armed and victualled from the *Preston* and sailed the 30th with the Admiral's Orders for Captain Barkley at Piscataqua.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 62, MassHS Transcript.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] March 30 [1775]

Warm affairs with Col. [Thomas] Gilbert of Trenton [Freetown] who has procured from Gen. [Thomas] Gage 56 small Arms & Amunition and raised a

Compa of 102 men against our Liberties. Also at N York warm dealing with Messrs Murrays² for secretly landing Goods, imported in the Ship *Bealah*.

1. Stiles, II, 26, LC.

2. Robert and John Murray.

WILLIAM LEWIS, PURSER OF H.M.S. *Rose* TO CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN¹

Dear Sir, I am greatly to apologize for my late Impoliteness at your House, and hope Mrs. Champlin and yourself will excuse it. I should be glad to know the Weight of the Bread return'd as the Steward cannot finish his weekly Accounts without it. the Weight of the Sugar and Price is wanted as our Mess settles every fortnight. Likewise the Weight of the Cheese, Price, and what I am charged in Cheshire, for I have lost that you gave me. I think the [way the] Captain's Steward talks the Captain will pay for it himself. We propose victualing next week, when I shall come on shore and talk with you myself. only some of the Rum must be in Casks of about 30 Gallons, 6 of them will do the rest as we propos'd. this Manoeuvre is a late Whim of the Captains. I have nothing peticular to add but remain, &c.

Wm. Lewis

Wesnesday afternoon [March 30, 1775]

I find by the Steward the Captain expects to be charged no more than the weight as Cheshire. [Alexander] Brymer² supplied so at Boston. you know best what ships have done here before. things are in the same disagreeable Situation. dont let this be seen.

1. Ford, ed., *Commerce of Rhode Island*, II, 14, 15.

2. Agent for victualling His Majesty's Ships in North America.

New York Journal, THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1775

Philadelphia, *March* 22 [1775]

Since our last, sailed from this port for Boston his Majesty's Cutter *Diana*, Capt. [Thomas] Graves, with a large quantity of Dollars, squeezed from the traders of this port, for the maintenance of a band of _____.

As every person that visits a place leaves a character behind him – A correspondent remarks, that the Captain and crew of the *Diana* have left that of men who rode at the top of their commission, and acted as if they thought it entitled them to abuse every man they found trading in this river, by word or actions, and destroying their property, though strictly obeying the laws, the observers of which, they pretend, they are sent to protect.

31 Mar.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE¹

Sir

Boston 31 March 1775

There being a Necessity for taking out all the *Somerset's* Guns and, perhaps, the greatest part of her Stores, that by heeling her, when lightned, they may

caulk as much of her bottom as possible which is at present in a very leaky Condition. I shall be greatly obliged to your Excellency for one or Two Transports a few days to take in her Stores while this work is in hand. I have the Honor to be with great regard. Sir [&c.]

Sam¹ Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir, Boston 31st March 1775.

I have had the pleasure to receive your Letter of this Day, respecting your having Occasion for Two Transports to take in the *Somersets* Guns and Stores, which I shall order immediately to Attend and to give you every Assistance possible.

I have the honor Sir, &ca

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir, Boston 31st March 1775.

Having received Information of some Disturbance about Freetown Swansey and Dighton, I am to beg the Favor of you to write a Line to Captain [James] Wallace ² to give them such Assistance as he is able; If the Captain can send up any vessel to make Enquiry into Matters, and inform the People he has sent it by my Application, and to acquaint me of the best Places to procure Quarters for Troops, I apprehend it would be Sufficient.

I am with great Regard, Sir, &ca.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. Commander of His Majesty's Ship *Rose*, at Newport.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir Boston 31 March 1775

I have sent Captain [James] Wallace A Copy of your Excellency's letter to me, of this Morning, with Orders to comply with your requests therein mentioned. I have the Honor to be with great regard Sir [&c.]

Sam¹ Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

1 Apr.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1775

Providence, April 1.

We hear a Number of Fire Arms, with a Quantity of Ammunition, have been sent from on board a Man of War at Newport, to Col. Thomas Gilbert, and his Tory-Adherents, at Freetown.

2 Apr. (Sunday)

SAMUEL JOHNSTON TO JOSEPH HEWES, A NORTH CAROLINA DELEGATE IN THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

Hayes [Edenton] 2d April 1775

Dear Sir I hope this will meet you safely arrived at the Grand Scene of Action, where you will have a most important part to act.² The conduct of the Yorkers seems to have given the Ministry hopes of effecting a Division in the Councils of America, imagining that a Majority of the Assembly speak the sense of the people, from some late proceedings in the House of Commons it would appear that Administration would gladly make a drawn Battle of it could they get an opening at which they might with decency creep out, without incurring the imputation of acting inconsistently but this I am afraid will be impossible while the people of America are so much and so justly irritated, unless the Congress, without giving up essentials, could by appearing to concede bring about a Negotiation, it is to be hoped the present Wound might be closed at least for some time, and it is obvious of how great importance it is to gain time, as the rapid increase of inhabitants in America will for some years exceed all Calculation and will enable us in the Course of a few years to ask with a better Grace than at present greater immunities than are at this time thought of by the most sanguine of our friends.

We have been alarmed with an Account of an Engagement between a Detachment of 1200 of G. [Thomas] Gage's Troops and a body of the N. England Militia, but I suspend my belief till further accounts to confirm it.³

Old Barter is just arrived from Pool and has imported some merchandize I have not heard what, the Committee were sitting this afternoon deliberating what steps were to be taken with him,⁴ I have not heard their determination, I suppose Bob Smith will inform you he is among them.

I would wish to know by the earliest opportunity whether any probable plan is thought of among the Merchants for procuring an importation of Goods this Fall or whether any possibility of giving such conditional orders as can with safety be executed, you know my reason for desiring this information and hope you will not refuse giving me your sentiments on the subject. . . . pray let me hear from you what is doing and what is expected to be done, and believe me always Dear Sr [&c.]

Sam Johnston ⁵

1. Johnston Collection, HL.

2. Hewes and William Hooper were enroute to Philadelphia to attend the Second Continental Congress, scheduled to open May 5, 1775.

3. A rumor several weeks in advance of the fact.

4. For violating the Continental Association.

5. Johnston (1735-1816) was president of the North Carolina Provincial Congress.

3 Apr.

LIBEL IN ROYAL VICE ADMIRALTY COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY ¹

Court of Vice-Admiralty at Boston April 3, 1775

ALL Persons claiming Property in Thirty-six Casks of Wine, and nine Boxes of Lemmons, seized at Lynn, for Breach of the Acts of Trade, are hereby Notified

to appear at a Court of Vice-Admiralty, to be held at Boston, on Friday the 14th Instant, at 10 o'Clock, Before noon, and shew Cause (if any they have) why the said Wine and Lemmons should not be decreed Forfeit, pursuant to an Information filed in said Court for that Purpose.

1. *Massachusetts Gazette and Boston Weekly News-Letter*, April 6, 1775.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, APRIL 3, 1775

Newport, April 3.

Yesterday morning as the ship *Rose* was moving further into this harbour (for what reason is not certainly known) she ran upon the north-end of Goat Island, where she lay till night.

We hear one of Col. [Thomas] Gilbert's sons, and one or two others, came down from Freetown on Saturday night [April 1], in a small rowing boat, and went on board the above ship; perhaps those persons are Jonases.

It seems that the Freetown gang of traitors is almost broke up, many of the poor, *deluded* creatures not being able to procure victuals for themselves or families, their noble Colonel's magazine being nearly exhausted.

WOOLSEY AND SALMON TO JAMES FORDE, DROGHEDA, IRELAND ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 3d April 1775

we have already wrote you that we sent 3660 bushells of yr Salt to Hallifax the Remndr we put on Board a Sloop for Georgia & when on board we sold it for 10d pence this Money p bushell say for 2500 bushells (this we though[t] would be more to yr advantage in the End tho we are obliged to give Six Months Credit) than to have shipped on your own Acct & we are sure that your salt will turn out more to your Advantage in the End than a Cargo of the Same article that came here the same time from Bristol did for the owner ² upon the whole we hope you will be satisfied that we have done for you as if the Interest had been our own.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Probably the Ship *Sally*, William Moat, master, from Bristol, which entered on March 7, 1775, with 4,000 bushels of salt and 24 servants.

4 Apr.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO BENJAMIN TITCOMB, FALMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 4 [April, 1775]

You will find long ere this as your son Jos ² did not receive a letter from you as soon as he Expected that he was dispatched without loss of time & we hope to your Satisfaction & we think that he was only two weeks here . . . We wish Sincerely that matters were settled between England & this Continent & from the last accts we have Reason to hope a turn to our advantage however all well wishers to this Continent here are preparing for the worst. Yet I am sorry to say we have A Number of Professed Tories & Still a Greater Number that will not say which Side the[y] are off. Yet I think more than the half are in favour of the Measures we are Entered Into (that is them that avows them Publickly) & we suppose on the whole we have three Fourths on our Side. boath Publick & private

& we have Reason to think the Province in General are friends, save the Scotch & a few that the[y] can Influence

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.
2. Joseph Titcomb, master of the sloop *Cumberland*, sailed for Falmouth, in the Province of Maine, on February 14, 1775, with a cargo of 450 bushels of corn, 230 barrels of flour, fifty barrels of bread, and two tons of bar iron.

WOOLSEY AND SALMON TO THOMAS GREG ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 4 [April, 1775]

We wrote you the 11th last Month Informing you of the Arrival of the Brig *Henry & Joseph* with Salt for Jas Forde Esqr in Dro[g]heda, & of our Intentions of sending the Salt to Hallifax & Loading the Vessel acct of Mr Forde. we Shipped 3660 bushells of the Salt for Hallifax on board the Schooner *Betsy Isaac Snow* Mastr the Remndr we Shipped for Georgia & Sold after it was Shipped. we have now almost 5000 bushells of Wheat on Board the Brig also 125 balls flour we hope She will take 7000 bushells if so we do suppose it will Cost 1400 £ Sterling of which plase take notice on acct of Insurance Indeed if the Wheat will not Cost so much there will be other articles that will make that Same

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA ¹

[Wilmington] Wednesday, April 4th. [1775]

Mr. Alexander Hostler applied to the committee to have their advice concerning a ship called the *Clemantine*, which was coming to his address from London, commanded by Dick Wier, which is lost on the middle ground near the Bar of the River. At the same time Mr. Hostler delivered to the committee, an Invoice of sundry stationary goods shipped on board the said vessel, which he requested the committee to take also into consideration and direct him what may be done with the said ship, stores and materials and stationary goods.

Ordered, That it is the opinion of this committee that the vessel, with her stores and materials may be legally sold without any breach being made in the General Association, but as the stationary goods are landed at Brunswick, this committee think they don't come under their direction.

1. Loring, ed., *Safety Committee of Wilmington, N.C.*

5 Apr.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir,

Boston April 5th 1775.

I take the Liberty to enquire of you whether you have any Ship or armed Vessel at or near the Penobscot River, or whether you have any that could be Sent thither on a temporary Service? I shall take an opportunity to see you and converse with you on the Service I have in View to perform.

I shall at the Same time be obliged to you for your opinion of the Number of Troops that the Boats belonging to your Squadron in the Harbour would be

able to take on board should I have occasion to make Application to you for their Assistance

I have the honor to be with great Regard and Esteem Sir [&c.]

Thos. Gage

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir I have received your Excellency letter relative to the affair of Penobscot & and will do myself the Honor of calling upon your Excellency tomorrwo Morning at 10 o'Clock. I am Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

Wednes 5 April 1775

1. Gage Papers, CL.

6 Apr.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO SAMUEL SOLLY WENTWORTH, MERCHANT IN DOMINICA ¹

Sir

New London April 6th 1775

by our Frind Capt John Deshon who was in a Vissell of mine last Summer I find that you assisted him in the Sale of his Cargo of Mules,² and the Obligations were left in your hands, as by your Rect to the Amount of Twenty Five hundred & Seventy Seven pounds 8/5 and Accot in my favour – I should be Glad you would Collect the Money in Good Bills, of Exchange pay in London – Should Choose the Persons bills who bought the Mules Especially Mr Nelsons – and hope you'l not take any but what will be paid with Honour – of this you must be the best Judge – and when you have Recd the Bills forward them to me by the first Oppory the Mules trade, and shall give my Captains, Orders to Call att Domineca & if the Markitts thair are Agreeable shall give them Directions to Call on you to Dispose of their Cargoes – but as to trade for the future, the Whole Depends on the British Parliament Repealing the American Acts – I have Sent you sum of our News Papers by wich you'l see that we are Determin'd and Unanimous to Abide by the Resolutions of the Continental Congress – I am Sir – [&c.]

Nathel Shaw Jun^r

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

2. Mules, brought from the Mediterranean in 1774.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO ELEAZER POMROY, GUADELOUPE MERCHANT ¹

[Extract]

New London April 6th 1775. –

Dear Sir, I Recived a line from you at St Eustatia and find that you had Sold your Cargoe and was to Return back to Guadulupe hope You'll Make Money by it – I Effected the Insurance you wrote for in N York and now Intend, to Mention to the Underwriters, that You did not Proceed on the Voyage no further then St Eustatia and that I think it Reasson able the Risque now must be from St Estatia to New London when you Come home but I am Much at a Loss when to Mention

of my Opinion of your Returning . . . I hope you'll be Abe to Collect all the Debts that I have Demand Ship the Effects in Some of my Vissels The Jin you Shipt home was Seized at New Port and your Bro Bot it at Vendue for 10/6 Sterg p Case and was Obliged to pay the freight he has Shipt it to New York its very Slow Sale. Nothing will Command Cash but Molls and Powder I am Sir [&c.]

Nath^l Shaw Jun^r

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

ALEXANDER MCDougALL TO JOSIAH QUINCY, JR.¹

[Extract]

New York, April 6, 1775

During the Ship *Buelah's* stay in the Bay she was continually watched by a Sub-Committee, and did not enter. But while she lay at the Hook waiting for a fair wind, the night before she departed threatened a storm; and as the Boat, on board of which the Sub-Committee attended, was not so well provided with ground-tackling as the Ship, the Boat was obliged to go into a cove of safety, at some distance from the Ship. The owners,² who had some goods on board, having previously meditated a plan to land them availed themselves of this opportunity, and effected it in the night. Of this they were suspected, and our Sub-Committee of Observation, and the Committee of Elizabeth Town, having got a clue to a discovery, the owners confessed the matter upon oath. Our citizens were so enraged at them for the horrid deed, that it was with great difficulty they were prevailed upon not to banish them. The fearful apprehensions of these persons, and the terms on which they are suffered to abide here, are fully expressed in the printed papers which you have herewith. This is the only violation of the Association we have had since it took place. The punishment they now and will endure is sufficient to deter any man, however base, from another breach.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 284. McDougall (1732–86) was a New York radical who had commanded a privateer in the French and Indian War.

2. Robert and John Murray.

7 Apr.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

[Boston] 7th [April, 1775]

The *Margueritta* returned from Piscataqua and Captain [Andrew] Barkley acquainted the Admiral that the *Canceaux* had not been able to sail for Halifax before the *Margueritta's* Arrival, and that he had sent her to Falmouth in Casco Bay according to the Admirals Order.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 62, MassHS Transcript.

INSURANCE POLICY UPON THE CARGO IN THE BRIG *Mount Holly*¹

WHEREAS *I Stepn Collins* as well in *my* own Name, as for and in the Name and Names of all and every other Person or Persons, to whom the same doth, may or shall appertain, in Part or in all doth make Assurance and causeth myself and them and every of them to be Insured, lost or not lost, at and from *Philadelphia*

To London upon all Kinds of lawful Goods and Merchandizes, loaden or to be loaden aboard the good *Brig* called the *Mount Holly* whereof is Master for this present Voyage *George Carr* ² or whosoever else shall go for Master in the said Ship, or by whatsoever other Name or Names the same Ship, or the Master thereof, is, or shall be named or called, beginning the Adventure upon the said lawful Goods and Merchandizes from and immediately following the Loading thereof on board the said *Brig* aforesaid, and so shall continue and endure until the said Goods and Merchandizes shall be safely landed at *London* aforesaid. And it shall and may be lawful for the said Ship in her Voyage to proceed and sail to, touch and stay at any Ports or Places, if thereunto obliged by Stress of Weather, or other unavoidable Accident, without Prejudice to this Insurance. Touching the Adventures and Perils, which we the Assurers are contented to bear, and to take upon us in this Voyage, they are, of the *Seas, Men of War, Fires, Enemies, Pirates, Rovers, Theives, Jettisons, Letters of Mart, and Counter Mart, Surprisals, Taking at Sea, Arrests, Restraints and Detainments, of all Kings, Princes, or People of what Nation, Condition or Quality soever, Barratry of the Master and Mariners*, and all other Perils, losses and misfortunes, that have or shall come to the Hurt, Detriment or Damage of the said Goods or Merchandizes, or any Part thereof. And in case of any Loss or Misfortunes, it shall be lawful to and for the Assured *his* Factors, Servants and Assigns, to sue, labour and travel for, in and about the Defence, Safeguard and Recovery of the said Goods or Merchandizes, or any Part thereof without Prejudice to this Insurance, to the Charges whereof we the Assurers will contribute each one, according to the Rate and Quantity of his Sum herein Assured. And it is agreed by us the Assurers, that this Writing or Policy of Insurance, shall be of as much Force and Effect, as the surest Writing or Policy of Assurance heretofore made in Lombard-Street, or elsewhere in LONDON. And so, we the Assurers are contented, and do hereby promise and bind ourselves each one for his own Part, our Heirs, Executors and Goods, to the Assured *his* Executors, Administrators and Assigns, for the true Performance of the Premises, confessing ourselves paid the Consideration due unto us for the Assurance, by the said Assured or *his* Assigns at and after the Rate of *Two Pounds Ten Shillings P Ct*. And in Case of Loss, the Assured is to abate *Two Pounds per Cent.* and such Loss to be paid in three Months after Proof thereof. And it is agreed, that if any Dispute shall arise relating to a Loss on this Policy it shall be referred to two indifferent Persons, one to be chosen by the Assured, the other by the Assurer or Assurers, who shall have full Power to adjust the same; but in Case they cannot agree, then two such Persons shall chuse a third, and any two of them agreeing, shall be obligatory to both Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF WE the Assurers have subscribed our Names and Sums Assured in *Philadelphia* the *Seventh Day of April* One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy *Five*

Memorandum. *Salt, Wheat, Indian Corn, Peas, Malt and dried Fish stow'd in Bulk, and Tobacco in Casks, are warranted free from Average, unless general, or the Ship be stranded. All other Goods free from Average under Five Pounds per Cent. unless general, or the Ship be stranded.*

The Assured shall allow the Office-Keeper or Broker Half per Cent. for his Trouble, in collecting any Loss that may happen on this Policy, paying the same in due Time, and registering it in the Office-Books.

£ 100, *One hundred pounds* John Bringhurst

£ 100, *One hundred pounds* Theo & Rich Bache

£ 100, *One hundred pounds* Jereah. Warder Jun.

1. Stephen Collins Accounts, vol. 12, LC. This is a printed form. Handwritten insertions appear in italics.
2. According to Custom House Records, the brig *Mount-Holly*, G. Carr, for London, was entered outwards and cleared just prior to April 3, 1775. *Pennsylvania Packet*, April 3, 1775.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1775

Williamsburg, April 7.

Captain Sampson, of the snow *Elizabeth*, of Bristol, who was lately published as a violator of the association, and an enemy to American liberty, for refusing to take on board again his cargo of salt, which the Norfolk committee had permitted him to unload, till he could get his vessel repaired and in order for sailing, has at last found it convenient, after repeated prevarications and much indiscreet and disrespectful behaviour, to take in his load of salt, and is sailed back for Bristol, without any other cargo.

JOSIAH MARTIN, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

North Carolina, New Bern, April 7th 1775.

I am bound in conscience and duty to add, My Lord, that Government is here as absolutely prostrate as impotent, and that nothing but the shadow of it is left. It is indeed alike the Case in every other Colony that I hear of except New York, where the virtue of the Assembly has as yet supported it. I must further say, too, my Lord, that it is my serious opinion which I communicate with the last degree of concern that unless effectual measures such as British Spirit may dictate are speedily taken there will not long remain a trace of Britain's dominion over these Colonies.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, IX, 1212-1214.

8 Apr.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO COLONEL THOMAS GOLDTHWAITE, COMMANDER OF
FORT POWNALL, PENOBSCOT ¹

Sir

Boston 8th April 1775

Considering the present State of the Country, and the most daring and illegal Attempts that have been made against his Majesty's Government even to the Seizing and dismantling his Forts. Lieut [Thomas] Graves Commander of his Majesty's Armed Schooner *Diana*, together with a Detachment of His Majesty's 64th Regiment, are Ordered to Fort Pownal, with directions to take onboard all

the Artillery and spare Arms belonging to, and in Store at said Fort; and this is to require you to deliver said Artillery and spare Arms into the Charge of said Lieut Graves, that they same may be secured for the present, and returned at a proper Season

I am &c

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir,

Boston April 8th 1775

The Detachment of the 64th Regt ordered with Lieutenant [Thomas] Graves ² to Penobscot will be on Board their Vessel this Evening and ready to follow the Lieutenant's Orders.

I transmit you my Letter to the Commander of Fort Pownall under a flying Seal, for your own and Lieut Graves Perusal, which he will please to close and deliver, and I am to beg of you to give Lieutenant Graves orders in Consequence of the Contents thereof.

I also enclose you a Copy of my Orders to the Subaltern who is to command the Debarkment of the 64th

I will take this opportunity to mention that Mr Thomas has twice informed me of his application to you concerning stationing an armed Vessel Some time longer at Marshfield, which I should be glad was complied with if you have no objections to the contrary.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. Commander of H.M. Schooner *Diana*.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR., TO PETER VANDERVOORT & CO., NEW YORK ¹

[Extract]

New London April 8, 1775

I returned yesterday from Newport & Providence I assure you that you are very diligent in getting in readiness, but I am much afraid that we have not a Sufficiency of powder have you any lately arrived or do you Expect any in. let me know in your next & what it is sold for.

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

9 Apr. (Sunday)

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 9th [April, 1775]

The *Diana* and a Sloop sailed for Penobscot with Orders. after dismantling the Fort there, putting all the cannon, ammunition and Stores aboard the Sloop, and seeing her safe out of the Bay on her way to Boston, to proceed to Falmouth and endeavour to press Seamen for the Fleet, but to return to Boston in one month.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 62, MassHS Transcript.

10 Apr.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION OF FALMOUTH, MAINE PROVINCE ¹

Committee of Inspection Chamber

Falmouth, Mass., April 10, 1775

To hold a man up as an object of general detestation, to deprive him of the benefits that result from society, is disagreeable, is painful; but, on the other hand, to neglect the interest of our Country, to disappoint the just expectations for our constituents is dishonourable and base. The Committee of Inspection of the Town of Falmouth, therefore come forward, to discharge the duty they owe the publick, and the trust reposed in them by their fellow-citizens.

On Thursday, the 2d ult., the Sloop *John and Mary*, Henry Hughes, Master, arrived here from Bristol, supposed to have goods on board for Captain Thomas Coulson, of this place; and as the late Continental Congress had, by their Association, prohibited the importation of any goods from Great Britain after the first day of February last, this Committee, chosen by the said Town of Falmouth to observe the conduct of all persons in said Town touching said Association, immediately convened, and after employing some persons to see that nothing was taken out of said Sloop during their debates, they proceeded to consider the circumstances of the case; and being informed by Captain Coulson that said Vessel had on board sundry Rigging, Sails, and Stores, sent him by Mr. Garnet, Merchant in Bristol, for a new Ship lately built here by said Coulson, for said Garnet, the said Committee, after a full and serious consideration of the matter, gave it as their opinion, that his taking said Rigging and Sails out of the vessel in which they arrived, and appropriating them to rig his new Ship, in order to send her to England, would be a violation of the Continental Association, and therefore that the said Rigging, Sails and Stores, ought forthwith to be sent back again, without breaking any of the packages thereof.

Of this opinion the said Coulson had due notice, but not making any preparations to comply therewith, the said Committee again convened on Tuesday following, viz; the 7th ult. Captain Coulson then attended, agreeable to the desire of this Committee, and being asked why he had not sent away the goods, agreeable to the opinion of this Committee, founded on the aforesaid Association, he said, because it was not for his interest; and further said that the vessel wanted repairs, and therefore was unfit to go to sea, and that he did not choose to procure another, or to send back the said Rigging and Sails, otherwise than by rigging his said new Ship with them, and thus to send them back in the said new Ship; but that he would consent to have them stored at the Committee's risk until the vessel was repaired, and then he would re-ship them, and send them out of the harbour. But being asked whether he would send them back to Bristol, he declined giving the Committee any assurance that he would, though he was willing to send back the two hogsheads of Lines which came in said vessel.

This Committee then sent for a Committee of Carpenters, Riggers, and Caulkers, who had been on board to view her, at the request of a number of the inhabitants of this Town, and they informed us that the vessel wanted some repairs, but that in their opinion, she might be repaired, fit to return, in about

two days, without taking out the goods. Upon which the Committee passed the following Resolve, and sent a copy of it to Captain Coulson, viz:

That seven days be allowed said Coulson, from this time, to repair said vessel, and to make the necessary preparations for sending her back; and if he does not at the end of that term (wind and weather permitting) send said vessel out of this harbour to proceed to Bristol, this Committee will forthwith cause the truth of the case to be published, agreeable to the Continental Association.

At the expiration of said term, viz: on the evening of the 14th ult., the Committee met again, and although a deposition, signed by several persons, some of whom were merchants, masters of vessels, and ship-carpenters, was then handed in to this Committee, purporting that said vessel was unfit to go to sea until the goods were taken out, and she thoroughly repaired, yet it appeared that Captain Coulson had not taken due care to get said Sloop repaired, nor had endeavoured to procure another, in which to reship the goods to Bristol, and would give the Committee no assurance that he would send them back, in any other manner than he at first proposed. The Committee then adjourned to the 15th ult., and then passed the following Vote, viz:

That if Captain Coulson will re-ship the aforesaid goods in some other vessel, and send them back immediately, without breaking any of the packages, it will be satisfactory to this Committee.

To this Captain Coulson (who was again desired to attend, to hear the Committee's determination) would not consent, though one of this Committee offered him a vessel gratis, to carry them to Halifax or Newfoundland.

We, the said Committee of Inspection, do therefore, agreeable to the directions of the said Continental Congress, as expressed in the said Eleventh Article of their Association, hereby publish the name of the said Thomas Coulson, as a violator of the Continental Association.

By order of the Committee:

Enoch Freeman, Chairman

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 311, 312.

PETER VANDERVOORT TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

Dear Sir

New York April 10th 75

I have yours of the 1st Inst p Jno Heeny and note its Contents – I sent you 30 Barrells flower p David Harris & the Remaining 120 Brls to make up 150 will come by Heeny who will sail On Tuesday or Wednesday –

note what you say about Obtaining Clearence for Sugar, Should [Edward] Chappell come down for this Purpose, shall apply to our freind as before & if it can be done with Saifty, but have not had time since last Saturday evening to see our friend – no Molasses now at Markit and its much Wanted, the Current price is 23d, and its a doubt with me if best Retailing Molass. would not bring 2/ Just now, unless some should fall in – very best Sugars would sell at 53/ to 56/ as the best Quality be scar[c]e & Common plenty Coffee is green & good 11d flower 16/ & Superfine 22/ – the Accot in Edes & Gills Paper² alarms us, but am in

hopes it will Unite us the more, as it will Effect the Tories & you may depend we Will not Suffer the association of the Congress Violated & the Tories be afraid of the Whigs, I am – [&c]

Peter Vandervoort

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.
2. *Boston Gazette*.

11 Apr.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Cambridge] Tuesday April 11, 1775

A Letter from Mr [John] Barber read;

Thereupon, Ordered, That it be committed to Doctr [Samuel] Holton, Mr [Nathaniel Peasley] Sargeant, and Colo [Seth] Pomeroy, to consider thereof, and Report.

The Committee thereon reported, Verbally, that Colo [Samuel] Thompson be desired immediately to repair to Brunswick, Casco Bay, Woolwich, Georgetown, and other places, and take the most effectual measures to acquaint the people that one Mr Perry [Parry] ² is in the Eastern part of the Country, endeavouring to supply our Enemies with Masts, Spars and Timber, and to make use of all proper & effectual measures to prevent their aiding him in procuring said Articles.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 31.
2. Edward Parry, whose activities are covered in a number of subsequent letters and documents.

“REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER” ¹

April 1775 P M sent on board of a Schooner which Captn [Andrew] Barkley hired for to Carry dispatches to Adml [Samuel] Graves at Tuesday 11th Boston, Bread 224 pounds, Beer 4 Hhds, Beef 32 pieces, Pork 32 pieces, Butter 24 pounds, pease 1 Bushell, Oatmeal 12 Gallons, Water Caskes 10, Bisket Bags 7, 6 Black Musquett, 6 Pistols, 6 Swords, 12 Cartouch Boxes with Belts & Frogs, 10 pounds of Musquett Shot, 6 pounds of Pistol Shott & 10 pounds of Powder; at 2 the Master & Seven Men went on board the Schooner, & sailed for Boston –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 11th. April 1775

The *Hope* Schooner has brought from Rhode Island the Tents and Camp Equipage &c for the Marines, and is placed at the entrance into this Harbour between Point Shirley and Deer Island.

Upon the death of the man who deserted from the *Gaspee* at Falmouth (of which I acquainted you in my Letter March 4th and of the Court Martial thereupon) some of the Inhabitants of the place thought fit to threaten to destroy the *Gaspee* or any other Kings Ship that should come there; insomuch that Lieut

[William] Hunter judging it unsafe to send a Boat on shore, and wishing to avoid the Civil Power there taking Cognizance of the Seaman's death, returned to Boston; Upon his Acquittal I instantly ordered him back to Falmouth, partly with a View of getting the Deserters, but principally to check the Insolence of threatening the Kings Ships, by assuring them that if they committed any act of violence against the persons of his Majesty's Officers or Seamen or destroyed any of the Kings Stores, that I would take the severest Measures to distress them the Law would allow. This Message had the proper Effect; they reply'd civilly to Lieut. Hunter's Letter, and the people of the *Gaspee* went ashore as usual without being insulted, but the Deserters were not in the Town, and the *Gaspee* after remaining on the Coast her appointed time proceeded to Halifax to get ready to attend the Fisheries this Summer in the Bays of Chaleur and Gaspee.

I had fully purposed to send the *Asia* to New York according to what I formerly mentioned to you and Lieut. Governor [Cadwallader] Colden, but a Vessel arriving at Salem in six weeks from Falmouth with Accounts of the Proceedings of Parliament to the middle of February,² and of the *Falcon* being either sailed or upon the point of departing, I determined to wait her Arrival before I sent any of the large Ships from this Harbour, in order to be in a Condition fully and effectually to execute any Orders I might have the Honour to receive from their Lordships.

The *Asia's* Decks and sides have been caulked, she is completed with Stores, and is in all respect fit for Service; I have ordered her for the present to lie in Kingroad.

We have been obliged to lighten the *Somerset* by taking out her Guns, Cables, &c. Upon stripping the sheathing from her Bottom, we found the Ocham in her seams entirely rotten and the Butt Ends open; these Defects have been repaired, her Decks and sides well caulked and I have placed her, where the *Lively* and *Canceaux* formerly lay, between Charles Town and Boston. It is very likely that in this situation she will be of considerable service. They have not yet finished caulking the *Boyne*, but this Ship will in a few days be compleat; The sudden Departure of these Ships from England prevented perhaps, their being as well fitted and stored as they otherwise would have been. It is certain they came to me with a very scanty allowance of Stores, and their upper works in a leaky Condition. I have endeavoured in the most frugal manner to make up these Deficiencies and equip them for Service; but the want of Men is another impediment. The Squadron is already upwards of 160 short, and from the same Causes, vizt Death and Desertion, it is likely this number will be increased. I have therefore ordered Captain [George] Montagu of the *Fowey* at Virginia to press for Seamen, if Volunteers cannot be had.

It has now become almost unpardonable for Pilots to take Charge of the Kings Ships and Vessels, several have been driven from their Homes and threatened with death for assisting his Majesty's Fleet. I therefore encourage them to come to me, and have at this time several Pilots in pay, more than are immediately necessary, thinking these very usefull people should not all be suffered to abandon the Coast when the King's Service may very soon require their assistance. I endeavour to retain them upon the cheapest Terms I can for the King without re-

garding the established rules of payment, excepting not to exceed them. I hope their Lordships will approve of my bearing some of these persecuted Pilots on this emergency, rather than let them quit the Country, as I think the necessity for this measure cannot long exist.

Their Lordships have been pleased to order me to hire two Schooners for the particular Service of this Harbour, which with the *Falcon* they imagined would be sufficient for the purpose of guarding it; I have accordingly hired a Sloop and a Schooner, and caused them to be manned, victualed and stored as their Lordships have directed. One of these Vessels at the pressing Intreaty of the Inhabitants (and the Generals desire) has been chiefly employed at Marshfield,³ and where, tho' she is at present in this Harbour, I must send her or some other again. The other hired Vessel has been to and from Piscataqua, Marblehead and Salem, on business for the Squadron, and is now in this Harbour assisting in preventing the unlawful Entry of Vessels.⁴ I have also hired a small Sloop of 25 Tons which I have placed between Nodles Island and the Main near Winnisimmet Ferry; through this passage I find much Smuggling has been carried as it is extremely convenient and near to the two Towns. The small Sloop now placed there will answer every purpose of a much larger and more expensive Vessel. Frequent attempts are every week made to enter this Harbour, some in the night, and others upon various pretences of Distress, Ignorance and of bringing provisions imagining that provisions might be brought in without complying with the mode prescribed by the Act of Parliament; and smuggling is carried to such a height, and so systematically followed, that without the utmost Vigilance and care, there is no detecting them to Condemnation: We have however caught several lately.

The posts are become somewhat insecure, two of my last Letters have been opened at Philadelphia, and a Letter from Captain [James] Wallace at Rhode Island has been absolutely taken away from a special Messenger; Other Departments of the Crown have experienced the same treatment. If this practice gains ground I shall be obliged to hire some good going small Vessels by way of Advice Boats to carry dispatches to the different Ships when opportunities do not offer by any Vessel of the Squadron; but I do assure their Lordships, that whatever Expedients the necessity of the times obliged me to, no Expences shall be incurred but such as the Safety of his Majesty's Squadron and the good of the Service make absolutely necessary.

As the *Canceaux* was aground in Piscataqua River last January, I have ordered her to Halifax to have her Bottom examined and then to proceed on the Survey; Lieut. [Henry] Mowat is also directed in his way to Halifax to put into Falmouth to protect a new Ship lately launched there, and another Vessel that has brought her Rigging Sails and Stores from England; both these Vessels are threatened with being burnt; I have therefore ordered Lieut. Mowat to get them round as soon as possible to Marblehead or Portsmouth where they can be secured from danger.

Lieut. [Thomas] Graves in the *Diana* with a Land Officer and a party of Soldiers in another Sloop, at the desire of the General, are gone to Penobscot to bring away certain quantities of Arms and Ammunition in the Fort⁵ that they may not fall into the hands of our Adversaries.

The *Glasgow* is again well repaired and afloat; we are using every means to get her fitted and ready for Sea.

I am anxiously expecting the Arrival of the *Falcon*; Their Lordships may depend upon my executing whatever Orders I receive by her with the utmost punctuality.

Sir &c

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 63–67, MassHS Transcript.
2. By the middle of February, 1775, the House of Commons was considering a bill introduced by Lord North on February 10, "to restrain the Trade and Commerce of the Provinces of Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire, the Colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Island, and Providence Plantation, in North America, to Great Britain, Ireland and the British Islands in the West Indies; and to prohibit such Provinces and Colonies from carrying on any Fishery on the Banks of Newfoundland, or other places therein mentioned under certain conditions and for a time to be limited."
3. H.M. Schooner *Diana*.
4. H.M. Sloop *Margaretta*.
5. Fort Pownall.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] Apl. 11th [1775]

The Admiral gave orders to all the ships at Boston not to suffer any Stock to be taken off the Islands in the harbour without permission, and as the situation of things became more and more critical, and he was solicited to guard Boston against any attempt from Charles Town side, he caused the channel of the [Charles] river to be sounded, and, finding there was room enough for a large ship to swing at low water, ordered Captain [Edward] Le Cras to place the *Somerset* exactly in the Ferry way between the two towns, which he accordingly did.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 70, MassHS Transcript.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] Apr. 11. [1775]

Col. [Thomas] Gilbert of Freetown has fled to the man o' War in this port – Yesterday above a Thousand Men assembled in Arms at Freetown to lay Col. Gilbert as they had heard he had risen up against his country. They came from all parts round as far as Middleboro' Rochester &c – They took about 30 of his men and disarmed them, tho' they had lately taken the Kings Arms.

1. Stiles, II, 31, 32, LC.

12 Apr.

ENOCH FREEMAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF FALMOUTH, TO SAMUEL FREEMAN, A DELEGATE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

[Falmouth] April 12, 1775

[Thomas] Coulson no sooner arrived, but the next day had the Canso Man-of-War ² up to Town, and his old Bristol Sloop alongside of his new Ship, taking out the goods. But it seems he cannot get any of our people to help him; and I

do not think he will be able to get his Ship loaded and rigged unless he gets the Man-of-Wars men to do it. And I hear that Capt. [Henry] Mowat has been pressing men; some he releases, and some retains; and it is suggested by some, that his design is to supply Captain Coulson with men from his own Ship. We shall do all we can to prevent any other person from breaking the Association. I do not think it will be amiss for you to acquaint some of the Committee of Inspection in Boston of Captain Coulson's conduct, with which the People in general in Town and Country, are very much dissatisfied.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 318.

2. His Majesty's Ship *Canceaux*.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO JOSIAH MARTIN, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA ¹

(Copy).

Boston 12th April 1775

Sir. Your Letter of the 16th March I have now the Pleasure to receive & am glad to hear many of People in your Province are begin[nin]g to find they are misled and that they seem inclined to disengage themselves from the Arbitrary Power of the Continental Congress and of their Committees. I wish I could say as much of the People of this Province who are more cool than they were but their Leaders by their Acts and Artifices still keep up that seditious & licentious Spirit that has led them on all Occasions to oppose Government & even to Acts of Rebellion. The late Accots from England have embarras'd their Councils much they have applied to the New England Governments and doubtless will to those to the southward to assist them but I hope the madness of the Latter is wearing off and that they will get no encouragement from thence This Province has some times been & now is in the new fangled Legislature termed a Provincial Congress who seem to have taken the Government into their Hands what they intend to do I can't pretend to say but they are certainly much puzzled how to act Fear in some & want of Inclination in others will be a great bar to their coming to Extremities tho their Leaders use every Measure to bring them into the Field. I am sorry it is not in my Power to supply you with the number of Arms you Request I have them not to spare in the present Conjunction of the Service here I may assist you with some Powder but can get no safe Opportunity from this to send it to you I shall order you a supply by way of New York and whatsoever may be in my Power to assist you to keep up the present good Disposition of the Loyal part of your Province I shall be happy to do and am sorry I cannot at present do more –

I have the Honour to be with great Esteem [&c.]

Tho^s Gage

[Endorsed]

a true Copy certified by – Wm Hy Drayton. chairman ²

1. Hayes Mss. (P.C. 117), NCDAH.

2. Enclosed in the South Carolina Committee of Intelligence to the Committee of Wilmington, June 6, 1775.

“A LETTER FROM NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, DATED APRIL 12”¹

One Col. [Thomas] Gilbert, a high prerogative man in Boston government, about thirty miles from hence, with 60 or 70 of his neighbours, armed themselves; they agreed to defend themselves from the insults of the sons of liberty; but some militia men, zealous in the cause, went in chase of them. The Colonel took refuge on board a man of war in this harbour. The others, except 20, made their escape; these 20 are now confined in Providence gaol, where they were conducted last evening. What will be the event time must discover.

1. *London Chronicle*, from June 15, to Saturday, June 17, 1775, Postscript.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 12 [April, 1775]

I wrote you the 3d Inst since then none of your favrs this goes by [Henry] Tickell who is now Loaded & will Sail tomorrow his Cargo amts to 2426-17s-0 . . . I hardly think that I shall ship any more for Mr [James] Forde unless a Vessell comes out for it as the high price & low Exchange will prevent me on acct of his Interest. Tickell would not allow the Plank &c. for Lineing his Vessell to be Charged him neither would he allow a Commisn. on the 70 £ Sterling advanced him as he thought he should not pay a Commssion on the Receipt of his Salt freight what I advanced him above the 70 £ he allowed a Commisn. that he would not pay, but as he was not to Receive his freight for the Salt until he arrived at Dro[g]heda. I think he must pay the Commisn. & I beg you may get the Matter Settled between him & Forde. I also think as there was no mention made who should line the Vessell that Tickell should do it as it is the Custom of this place.

You should guard against such disputes for the future who you Charter a Vessell [Alexander] Kennedy² not yet arrived Billy has not made his Appearance³ when he does Shall send the Schooner to you⁴ I long to hear from you. As we have had no arrivals lately I cannot expect it, but hope soon to have that pleasure.

I shall write you soon by a Vessel for Dublin

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Alexander Kennedy, master of the ship *Baltimore Packet*.

3. Billy Salmon.

4. Schooner *Industry*.

LEVINUS CLARKSON TO DAVID VAN HORNE¹

Hon Sr

Chs Town 12th. April 1775

Inclosd youll please to Receive Mr White Second of Exchange, First I hope is long since Reced I have taken your Advice Relative to Mr Rapelya Purchas of Indiceo, A Quantity was offer him a 25/ wch he was Checkening, Tho it was first Offerd me & when I found he was so eager after I Imediately Purchasd wch is about 800lb Wt, I could not git it on Board [Hurst] as she was cleard out Shall Ship it on Board a Sloop that will sail in 10 days Capt Godfrey Master at

wch time a Philadelphia Vessel will sail when I shall order you to make Insurance, By wch means it gives me a chanze to save the Insurance

In the mean time look out for a Purshaur I Judg it wil sell from 9 to 10 York [currency], Tho dispose of it to the best advantage & as soon as Possable as you are in Advance for me, I will allow you Intrist, If you can point out any way that I may save myself I Shall Remit you the £700 York wth its Intrist of 5 pct the young Chancllr Decead against me, Tho not assurd no Bills Shall pass me – Please to pay Major Bayard for Mr Lysles Horses, Send me your Accot Currant – I have sold Rose for £360, £30 of wch is paid me & the Remainder I have taken Thos Elliott & Jacob Velks Bond wth 8 pc Intrist from the date until time wch is wil be 9 Months. The most Impudent Bitch I ever meet wth This Bond is Undoubtly good Despaired to her Purchaser that if they would not send hir Back to New York she would distroy hir Self Otherways I could have got more money for hir

Thank Major Bayard for his Horse I can git £400 Currancy for him when Poly leaves this the Price of the Horse & Chier is £100 Stg wch I am sure I can git, Rapelyas Horse are not liked Consequently the Expences attending them will run a way wth the Profits should there be any – There is a Brig coming up from Salem, I Judg hir to be Messs Bethune & Prince Brig of Boston to my Address As they wrote me Lately on that head Mr Kelly is wth us and Intends leaving this in a few days by land, If my Plan Succeeds wth Hamilton I shall make a great Voyage I am as much Coarted for the Preferanc of his Homeward Cargo, As Lord North is for Pentions Rice Still at 50/ & if this Sloop will take it in low I shall ship 100 Cask wch be Pleasd to mention to those most likely to purchase for it gives me more Concern to find by Major Bayard Letter you Refused payin for a long time for the Horse, This Mr Marston must know Consequently many other Merchants, And of coarse it must be bad with him Dr Sir Rest Assurd you shall be paid in a few Week days did I know how, And I Assure you Dr Sir I shall be Careful how I owe you Mony again, For what you have done I sincerely thank you for tho I am Apprehensive you have Blasted my Reputation as a Merchant wth those of New York, had you Refusd £1500 instead of £50 Some thought might be given, For an Excuse, to give to the Major I am at a Loss wh is the Reason of my Silence.

We are all well & am Dr Sir [&c.]

Lev^s Clarkson

To David Van Horne Esqr New York

1. Levinus Clarkson Papers, 1772–1793, LC.

13 Apr.

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N. TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE¹

Sir. Yesterday Governor [John] Wentworth sent on board His Majesty's Ship under my Command, John Johnson, a deserter from the 43d Regiment desiring I wou'd keep him on board until an Oppertunity offerd to send him to your Excellency. I will therefore send him in the first Kings Vessel that goes for Boston, he seems very sensible of his past error, in desirting of His Majesty's

Service in this Country, and acquaints me there is ten or twelve deserters at New Boston, the Town where he has been at who mean to return to their duty if they can by any means get to this Town, if they shou'd I shall take care to keep them safe til an Oppertunity offers to send them to you.

I shall be very happy if I could be of any service to your Excellency in this part.

Inclosed I have sent you a Letter that accompanied the Deserter.

I am [&c.]

[Andrew Barkley]

Scarborough at Portsmouth April 13th 1775.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 13th [April, 1775]

The Admiral had also caused the utmost Dispatch to be used in getting the Ships with him fit for Sea. The four large Men of War had been ordered to rig a month sooner than usual; and the *Asia* Being destined for New York was ready in every respect by the Middle of March. They were all victualled for three months, and their Stores compleated as far as could be supplied, their Boats having been repaired during the Winter; in short every thing possible was done, that the Season would admit, to have the Squadron very early in a state for Service.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 70, MassHS Transcript.

New York Journal, THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1775

New York, April 13.

Yesterday afternoon the *King Fisher* Sloop of War, weighed anchor and proceeded to the North River, in order to protect two Transports, which lately arrived here from Boston, to take in necessaries for carrying on the Siege of that Place.

On Tuesday arrived the Ship *Earl of Dunmore*, Captain [John] Lawrence, in a short Passage from London. and Yesterday, the *Harriott* Packet Boat, Captain Lee, in 7 weeks and 3 days from Falmouth, by whom we have the London Papers to the 23d February.

Capt. Lawrence informs us, that one paper of the 23d Feb. (which we could not get) mentions the vote having passed the house of commons, for the *suspension* of the several American acts.

14 Apr.

"REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER" ¹

April 1775 The Master & 7 Men returned on board after being drove on Shore
 Friday 14th & the above Schooner ² beat to pieces on the back part of Plumb
 Island near Newberry Lost the above Stores & saved only the
 Schooners sails & Lower rigging

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. See Journal for April 11, 1775.

To the Inhabitants of the *City and County of* New-York.

Friends and Fellow-Citizens,

NOTWITHSTANDING the present alarming situation of America in general, and the town of Boston in particular ; as well as the utter abhorrence which you lately expressed at the conduct of Messrs. U S T I C K S, for supplying the army under General G A G E, who is now carrying on the siege of Boston, with implements of war, &c. and, notwithstanding that this matter had been previously and earnestly recommended to your most serious attention by the General Committee ; yet, are there men to be found, who are base enough, for lucrative considerations, to continue supplying the troops with necessaries, for effecting the immediate destruction of our brethren and fellow-subjects in Boston, who are now suffering the most unjust and cruel hardships in the common cause of America, which, if accomplished, will finally overtake the inhabitants of all the colonies. The consideration of which, induced a number of the Freemen, Freeholders, Merchants, and others, to meet at the house of the Widow V A N D E • W A T E R, in order to devise the most prudent and efficacious means for averting the impending ruin, that such a conduct must inevitably involve us in, and that to the eternal reproach of the community.

Accordingly a Committee was appointed to wait on those persons, to dissuade them from acting so base and unnatural a part ; but, to our inexpressible grief, they were found to be so infatuated with the hopes of gain, that no impression could be made on their minds, of the cruelty, or injustice of their conduct. It was therefore thought by the Meeting, absolutely necessary, once more, in the present posture of affairs, to collect the sense of the city and county, on the propriety of furnishing the troops with hay, straw, &c. as well as boards and plank ; the former of which will enable the General (as indeed without it, he cannot) more effectually to take the field, and the latter to make platforms for the artillery, &c. And, as there are now two transports sent here for those articles, as well as others, no doubt.--And as *Ralph Thurman* and *Robert Harding* have been employed to furnish the aforesaid articles, it is earnestly requested that the Freemen, Freeholders, and other inhabitants of the city and county will meet at VI o'clock on next Saturday evening, at the LIBERTY-POLE, in order to signify their sense on the present occasion ; as those persons both persist in supplying the army with every necessary, in their way.

Thursday Night,
April 13, 1775.

By Order of the Meeting.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 14th [April, 1775].

By the *Nautilus* the Admiral received their Lordships Orders, of January the 28th 1775, to purchase four Schooners and estalish them as armed Schooners, and to station a Sloop at Savannah in Georgia.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 71, MassHS Transcript.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] April 14 [1775]

Some of Col. [Thomas] Gilberts Men it is said seized a Soldier of the Regulars a Disserter who was teaching Military Exercises at Freetown, and were about carrying him to Gen. [Thomas] Gage at Boston. The night before last 50 men marched from Dartmouth to join a large Body with a view to rescue the Soldier. By a letter from Boston I am informed that p[eo]ple are removing out of Boston very fast – and that Mr. [John] Hancock and Mr. [Samuel] Adams in particular, who are at the provincial Congress now sitting at Concord, do not design to return into Boston –

1. Stiles, II, 32, LC.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1775

Williamsburg, April 14.

Two sloops, belonging to the Eastern Shore, were condemned last Wednesday at the Court of Vice Admiralty;¹ and a New England vessel is now on the stocks, for trial.²

1. "By decree of the court of Vice Admiralty, on Tuesday the 18th of this instant (April) will be sold at Burwell's ferry, for ready money, the sloop *BETSEY*, with her rigging, tackle, and apparel; also the sloop *LIBERTY*, with her rigging, &c. 16 hhds of rum, one bag of coffee, and a box of chocolate. JAMES COCKE, Marshal." *Ibid*.
2. "By decree of the Court of Vice Admiralty, on *Tuesday* the 25th of *April* will be sold, at *Burwell's* ferry, for ready money, the schooner *ENDEAVOUR*, with her rigging, tackle and apparel, 1300 bushels of corn, 2 hhds of tobacco, 2 hhds of rum, and a barrel of coffee. JAMES COCKE, Marshal." *Ibid*, Friday April 21, 1775.

15 Apr.

RETURN OF ARMS TAKEN FROM FORT POWNALL, ON PENOBSCOT RIVER ¹

(Copy)

A Return of Sundry Artillery Stores &ca delivered the 15th of April 1775. By Orders of Thomas Goldthwaite Esqr Commandant of Fort Pownall to Lieut Graves Commr of a party in his Majesty's Service –

- 8 Cannon – 6 pounders with Carriages, Beds, Quoins and all other Appurces.
- 6 Cohorns
- 2 Small Mortrs with the Beds &ca
- 308 – 6 pound Shott
- 176 – 4 pound Do
- 6 Rammers with Spunges

7 Wormers
 7 Ladles
 13 Boxes of Grape Shott
 15 Boxes of Cannister Do.
 5 Boxes of Cohorn Shells charged
 45 Small Arms.

Jon^a Lowder, Gunner of sd Fort

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

16 Apr. (Sunday)

COLONEL THOMAS GOLDTHWAITE TO THOMAS CUSHING ¹

Sir,

Fort Pownall April 16th 1775

I have only time by this conveyance to advise you that there arrived here yesterday two Armd schooners & a detachment from the 64th Regt with orders to me from his Excellency the Governor to deliver the Commanding officer of this party all the Artillery & spare Arms belonging to this Fort which I accordingly have done. There now remains for the use of the Fort only 26 Arms besides a few at the Armourers unfit for use, about half a hundd wt of musket ball, & a small quantity of Powder. The establishment for the Garrison being near expired; the people murmuring at not being paid as usual; & much discontent among the Indians on account of the english settlers encroaching too near their town, makes it expedient for me to ask your advice which I shall be glad to receive by the first opportunity

I am [&c]

Tho Goldthwaite

I have dd Sixteen peices of Cannon of all sorts together wth Carriages Beds Quoins &c.

308 6 pound Shott	13 Boxes Grape Shott
176 4 pound Do.	15 Do Canister Do.
6 Rammers with Spunges	5 Do Cohorn Shell charges
7 Wormers	45 small Arms
7 Ladles	

I have since dd the arms at were at the Armourers Shop to repair ²

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. W. Molineux, who was a gunner at the fort, gave his account of the affair, as follows:

On Friday Eveng the 13th Apl came into penobscott river a Top sail Schooner which Anchor'd near Fort Pownall, which myself and others took to be a Merchantman going up the River to purchase Lumber and early next Mornng we saw Another Schooner who came too & Anchored near the Former soon after came ashore some sailors from the first mentioned Vessel to beg some Milk for their Breakfast and said they were going up the River to get Lumber – Immediately after came on Shore an Officer who enquired for the Commander of the Fort and on seeing him presented an Order from Genl [Thomas] Gage, for the cannon & spare Arms. he then return'd on board and immediately appeared a large Number of Soldiers on the Deck (which before was not seen) who directly got into Boats & came ashore & March'd into the Fort and went to work in Getting out the Cannon wch was carry'd on board – I am Convinc'd at that time it was not in Colo [Thomas] Goldthwaits

power to have prevented them with the least Degree of success having only 6 or 8 Men in the Fort and but half a Barl powder which the Gunner shew me in the Magazine – I further declare that I remain'd at said Fort 'till the news came of the Battle at Lexington immedeatly on which (tho' late at Night) Colo Goldthwait dispatched a Number of Men in his Barge to go 20 Miles up the River and advise the people of the News and recommend to them to Immedeatly Call a Meeting to consider what was most Eligible to be done – the Meeting was accordingly held the 6 day of May when Colo Goldthwait presided as Moderator thereof I attended the Meeting myself, and found, that after Colo Goldthwait's conduct was represented to them that they were Universally satisfy'd wch they manifested by a General Vote – during the whole of the above transactions I was at the Fort, and look'd on Colo Goldthwait to be a Strong Advocate for the Liberties of his Country

The above if Requir'd, am ready to make Oath to

W Molineux

I would further add that the Officer which Commanded the party said that if Colo G. refus'd delivering the above Canon &c 'twas his Orders to destroy the Fort &c immediately

Watertown 23 Octr 75

Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 211a.

COLONEL THOMAS GOLDTHWAITE TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE¹

Sir,

Fort Pownall Apr. 16th. 1775

Yesterday I had the honour of receiving your Excellys letter of the 8th instant with orders to deliver to Lieut [Thomas] Graves the Artillery & Spare arms belonging to this Fort which I immediately comply'd with & delivr'd them agreeable to the inclosed list.

There are now left for the use of the Fort 26 Arms about half a hundd wt of musquet balls & about 10 lb of powder which is a very small stock. It has been usual to send a supply of ammunition every year to the Fort but its now near two years since I have had any, supply & indeed the peaceable state of the Indians has made it less necessary. Tho the Indians have lately shewn a good deal of discontent at the english settling so near their town; & however insignificant the Penobscot Indians may be tho't which I believe dont exceed sixty men able to bear arms; yet if they are join'd by the Canada's Indians & other strangers who hunt with them upon this river they may if they are so inclined, give this part of the province at least a good deal of trouble. I shall be always ready to obey your Excellys commands when I've the honour of receiving them. –

I am [&c.]

Tho Goldthwaite

1. Gage Papers, CL.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

[Boston] 16th [April, 1775]

When the *Nautilus* and *Falcon* (which last came in today) arrived from England in want of many men and stores, and very leaky, having had blowing Weather in their passage, the *Asia* was in Kingroad, the *Boyne* and *Preston* before Boston, the *Somerset* between Boston and Charles Town, the *Mercury* in Nantasket Road, and the *Glasgow* just hawled from the Ways, after receiving a very considerable repair. The *Falcon* was ordered to remain before the Town, and the *Nautilus* went above the *Somerset* to lie off the Magazine Point . . . But it

may be necessary here to take notice that these few Kings Ships were then upwards of one hundred men short of their lowest peace Complements.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 72, MassHS Transcript.

WOOLSEY AND SALMON TO THOMAS RICHARDSON, PHILADELPHIA ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore 16 April, 1775]

We now request as yr Gunsmith is making ten Musketts by my G.W. or[der] that you desire him to make the Bayonates the same as the Kings Troops. We also request that he will put good Locks on them & also that he may have them hear by the time agreed on. Mr Thos Jones Requests yr getting him a Gun made the same size of the ten he is now making the Bayonett to be the same as the one made for G.W. . . . there is an Acct that the Parliament will enforce the acts & that there are more troops & Men of War Coming out

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

17 Apr.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1775

Boston, April 17.

Friday last the *Nautilus* (in natural History a simple Shell) arrived here from England with Dispatches for his Excellency General Gage: – In her came Passenger the Quarter Master of his Majesty's 17th Regiment of Light Dragoons . . .

Yesterday the *Falcon* Sloop of War also arrived here from England.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] April 17. [1775]

Capt. [John] Hathaway of Freetown Militia being in Newport, was this day seized and carried aboard the *Rose* Man o' War, as was said, to be sent to Gen. [Thomas] Gage for taking away the Kings Arms from Col. [Thomas] Gilberts Men – They detained him about [blank] hours and dismissed him. He is about commencing an Action against the Officers of the *Rose* for false Imprisonment.—

1. Stiles, II, 33, LC.

PETER VANDERVOORT TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. ¹

Dear Sir

New York April 17, 1775

This Incloses you a piece Called the Crisis Published in London & Signd by the Author & the Printer & Republished here, am told the third Number is also in this City – no Molasses yet come in, nor not a hhd to be had in this place & Coffee still 11d & flower 16/ hope the flower & Heeny &c is to hand, I am [&c.]

P Vandervoort

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

“AMICUS JUSTICIAE” TO THE PRINTER OF THE *Pennsylvania Packet* ¹

[Philadelphia, April 17, 1775]

The following affidavits were taken some time past, and might have been ready to insert in last Paper, but by accident were detained; however, by giving them a place in next Packet the Public in general will probably receive a satisfaction, as well as

AMICUS JUSTICIAE.

We have, no doubt, generally seen an attempt made in a late number of the *Pennsylvania Packet* by Dashwood Bacon and others (probably confederates,) in order to exculpate the perpetrators of the atrocious fact [attack] committed upon the body of George Taylor, in his own vessel, in the King’s road, by some of the *Diana’s* crew, under the command of Captain [Thomas] Greaves.² That they should attempt to clear themselves, in the manner they have, is not much to be admired, since it commonly happens that the most daring murderers plead “Not guilty” but when those who are called men, are grown so callous as to be insensible of the compunctions of conscience, and hardened as to deny the voice of truth, even in the face of the Sun, it then becomes necessary more methodically to arraign them, and investigate their conduct before the tribunal of the People, that so, if possible, they may be subjected to the punishment and contempt which they justly deserve; for which purpose the following depositions relative to the aforesaid abuse, are here presented to the world, viz:

Wilmington Borough, ss.

Personally appeared before me John M’Kinley, Esq; chief burgess of said borough, Nathan Wood, who being solemnly affirmed, doth declare and say, that he was lately a passenger on board George Taylor’s shallop, at the time when on her passage from this borough to Philadelphia, she was brought to by a party belonging to the Kings armed schooner *Diana*, Captain Greaves Commander, that on coming on board the shallop, an officer asked what was on board, and being answered by Taylor, only rum and limes, and the officer demanding proper papers, Taylor immediately produced them, The hatch was then opened and the hogsheads counted and compared, which agreeing with the papers, the officer asked further, whether Taylor had not something more on board, or in the cabin, and in a very scoffing manner enquired whether he had not some teas, Taylor replied, he was welcome to go into the cabin and see himself, assuring him at the same time that nothing was on board besides the rum and limes: then the officer and two sailors went into the cabin and stayed some time, on which Taylor went to the cabin door and looked in; the Officer asked what he wanted, Taylor replied, I did not know there was any body in the cabin but you – the officer then got into a violent rage, cursing and swearing in the most dreadful manner, and coming upon deck used many horrid imprecations and threats against Taylor, that he would kick him over-board, &c. for suspecting the King’s men, and still vaunting that he was a King’s officer, at the same time striking and wounding Taylor so that the deck was prodigiously besmeared with his blood. – And this affirmant farther saith, that Taylor gave not the least provocation, but, on the contrary, both in his words and behavior shewed the greatest respect and sub-

mission, and never resisted or attempted to touch the officer. The shallop coming a breast the schooner, the Officer told Captain Graves, who was walking on the quarter-deck of the schooner, that "this fellow has rum and limes on board" whereupon the Capt. immediately got into the boat with several sailors, came on board the shallop and without any examination highly approved of the conduct of the officer in beating Taylor, (who at that time was leaning bleeding violently in the cockpit) and said that if he had been on board he would have given him twice as much, and threatened to kick his teeth down his throat, and to take him on board the schooner, and there to tie him up and whip him. – The Capt. then ordered four men into the boat to tow the shallop along side the schooner, which had then drifted a small distance a stern, but findings they could not tow her against the wind and tide, the anchor was ordered out, and the Captain asking for the papers, they were handed to him, and he having examined and found them authentick, ordered Taylor to go about his business after having been detained nearly an hour and a half. – And further this affirmant saith not.

Nathan Wood.

Affirmed this 1st day of April, 1775, before

John McKinly.

Likewise, William Carter, Mary Johnston, and Daniel Nicholson, being solemnly sworn on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God, do severally depose and say, that they, respectively, were on board George Taylor's shallop, at the time aforementioned, and were particularly attentive to the transactions aforerelated, and that what Nathan Wood, the above affirmant, hath declared in his examination, is just and true, and particularly, that George Taylor gave not the least provocation, but on the contrary, behaved in the most respectful and submissive manner,

William Carter.

Mary Johnston.

Daniel Nicholson.

Sworn this 1st day of April, 1775, before

John McKinley

Now, if conduct of this kind is permitted with impunity, let us no longer exclaim against the piratical states of Barbary for committing outrages upon the subjects of George the Third, since we see British barbarians, the subjects of George the Third, under his commission, sanction and authority, commit such audacious outrages upon the persons and property of his subjects. From what hath been heretofore offered against the present cause of complaint, some may, perhaps, have been ready to treat it as a fiction, but since the matter is here so amply confirmed, may we not with confidence look to the King, and call aloud upon him, or those who represent him in cases of this nature, strictly to examine into this conduct of his servants, so that justice which is the boasted glory of the English nation, may take place, and that they may thereby, in some measure, redeem the honour and dignity of the Crown from the obloquy and contempt to which such conduct has too justly subjected it.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, April 17, 1775.

2. See *Pennsylvania Packet*, March 13 and 27, 1775.



KING FISHER,
Sloop 14 Guns.

British sloop-of-war Kingfisher. By Joseph Marshall, 1775.

18 Apr.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

[Boston] 18th [April, 1775]

The Boats of the Squadron, by desire of the General were ordered to assemble along side the *Boyne* by 8 o'Clock in the Evening, and their Officers were instructed to follow Lieut. [John] Bourmasters Direction. These Boats were to take in the Troops and land them in the Night at Phipps Farm; which being done they marched up the Country.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 73, MassHS Transcript.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE¹

[Boston] 18th April 1775

At 8 this night the Commanding Officers of Regiments were sent for to Headquarters, and ordered to have their respective Grenadiers and Light Infantry Companies on the beach near the Magazine Guard exactly at 10 o'Clock this night, with one day's provisions in their Havresacks, and without knapsacks – They were directed to order their Companies to parade quietly at their respective Barracks, and to march to the place of Rendezvous in small parties, and if Challenged to answer "Patrole." – The Companies of our Regiment (the 23rd) marched accordingly, and were the first, complete, at the place of parade; Here we found a number of the Men of War's and Transports boats in waiting. – As there was no public Officer attending to superintend the Embarkation, which it was evident would take up a good deal of time, our two Companies with the approbation of the Officers of the Navy, embarked in the nearest boats, and pushed off a little way from the shore. As the other Companies arrived soon after, as many men embarked as the boats would contain. By this time Lieut Colo [Francis] Smith of the 10th, who was to have the Command, arrived, and with him Major [John] Pitcairn of the Marines. The boats then put off, and rowed towards Phipps's farm, where having landed the troops they returned for the remainder and landed them at the same place. This was not completed until 12 o'Clock . . .

The town was a good deal agitated and alarmed at this Movement, as it was pretty generally known, by means of the Seamen who came on shore from the Ships, about 2 o'Clock, that the boats were ordered to be in readiness.

1. *Mackenzie*, I, 18.

"REMARKS &CA ONBOARD THE *Somerset*"¹

April 1775 Moored between Charles Town and Boston
Tuesday 18 P M All our Boats employed attending the Troops.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/906. The journal was kept by Captain Edward Le Cras, R.N.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU,
COMMANDING ¹

April 1775 Moor'd in the North River abreast of the Town [of New
York]

Tuesday 18 Arrived here a Transport sent the Marines on board Transport
to protect her from the Mobb, while Loading.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

19 Apr.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 1775 April 19th

[The troops] were attacked . . . at Lexington by the Provincials. The instant this was known, and that the latter returning to Charles Town, the Admiral ordered all the Marines on Board to be ready to land at a Moments Warning upon a Signal for that purpose, and by desire of General [Thomas] Gage, they were landed in the afternoon at Charles Town under the command of Captain Lieut. James Johnson to cover the retreat of our harrassed Soldiers. But it was the *Somerset* alone that preserved the detachment from Ruin. The vicinity of that formidable Ship to Charles Town so intimidated its Inhabitants that they (tho' reluctantly) suffered the Kings Troops to come in and pass over to Boston, who would otherwise have been undoubtedly attacked, and in their defenceless conditions such a proceeding must have been fatal to all the Land Forces on that side, exhausted as they were with Fatigue and without Ammunition; & the consequence of their destruction might have been that of the rest of the army in Boston, for, had the Charles town people massacred those poor harrassed Soldiers just returned from Lexington, there can be no doubt but they would have immediately crossed to Boston, where they were certain to find 19 out of 20 willing and ready to assist them in finishing their work.

At an interview this Evening with General Gage the Admiral advised the burning of Charles town and Roxbury, and the seizing of the Heights of Roxbury and Bunkers Hill, (indeed the latter had been begun to be fortified, but that work was discontinued for some reasons with which the Admiral was unacquainted); to this Proposal the General objecting the weakness of his Army, the Admiral replied that he would strengthen it to the utmost of his power by landing what few Marines remained aboard his Fleet, and, if the General would withdraw the 64th Regiment from Castle William, he would garrison it with his Seamen and be answerable for its safety. Such a plan pursued, at the same time that the three Line of Battle Ships lay opposite to the town full of Rebels and their Goods, would probably have chequed the most daring and have given such an Appearance of activity to our Operations that things might have continued a long time quiet. It was indeed the Admirals opinion that we ought to act hostility from this time forward by burning & laying waste the whole country, & his inclination and intentions were to strain every nerve for the public Service.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 73, 74, MassHS Transcript.

Week Day	No Days	Winds	Remarks Boston Harbour.
April			for all the Marines of the Fleet to go on board the <i>Somerset</i> set all the Boats in the fleet Employed Transporting the troops who had been out, over to Boston and carrying the Marines and third Brigade over to Charles Town from Boston. at 11 PM the <i>Falton's</i> guard boat brought live men on board on suspicion of taking up arms against the Kings Troops. AM heard several Volleys of Small Arms which proved to be the Kings Troops engaging the Rebels. at noon made the signal for all Boats to attend Manned and Armed.
Thursday	20	NW 10. by	
Continued.			
Friday	21	PD.	Mod. and Cloudy. PM sent the Boats to bring the Marines and third Brigade over from Charles Town the first on board and the latter to Boston. AM at 6 began to unmoor and warped a cable length further to the Northward, and moored again and blapt spring on our cables. AM the guard boat brought four prisoners from the main guard that were taken under arms against the Kings Troops.
Saturday	22	ESB	Foggy with Drizzling rain. PM the <i>Asia's</i> Marines came on board to be ready for a Disembarkation.

Tuesday	18	ESB	D.W. Received on board some fresh Beef.
Wednesday	19	PD.	D.W. at 9 PM sent the Boats Manned and Armed to the Bayne to wait for orders. at 2 AM they returned after having Transported A Number of Troops over Cambridge River.
Thursday	20		Fresh gales and Cloudy. at 1/2 past 4 PM made the sign for all Lieutenants. at 1/2 past 5 hoisted a Red flag at the Main Topmast head and fired a Gun as a Signal.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Preston*, CAPTAIN JOHN ROBINSON,
COMMANDING ¹

April 1775

Remarks Boston Harbour.

Wednesday 19

at 2 A M they [the boats] returned after having Transported A Number of Troops over Cambridge River. at ½ past 4 P M made the signl for all Lieutenants. at ½ past 5 hoisted a Red flag at the Main Topmast head and fired a Gun as a Signal for all the Marines of the fleet to go on board the *Somerset*, all the Boats in the fleet Employed Transporting the troops who had been out, over to Boston and Carrying the Marines and third Brigade over to Charles Town from Boston. at 11 P M the *Falcon's* guard boat brought two men on board on suspicion of taking up arms against the Kings Troops.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

BRITISH ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLES OF LEXINGTON AND CONCORD ¹

A circumstantial Account of an attack that happened, on the 19th April, 1775, on his Majesty's Troops by a number of the people of the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay --

On Tuesday the 18th of April, about half past 10 at night, Lieutenant Colonel [Francis] Smith of the 10th Regiment embarked from the Common at Boston with the Grenadiers and Light Infantry of the troops there, and landed on the opposite side from whence he began his march towards Concord where he was ordered to destroy a magazine of military stores -- deposited there for the use of an army to be assembled in order to act against his Majesty & his Government -- The Col: called his officers together and gave orders that the Troops should not fire unless fired upon, and after marching a few miles detached six Companies of Light Infantry under the command of Major [John] Pitcairn, to take possession of two bridges on the other side of Concord; soon after they heard many signal guns, and the ringing of alarm bells repeatedly which convinced them that the Country was rising to oppose them and that it was a preconcerted scheme to oppose the King's troops, whenever there should be a favorable opportunity for it. About 3 o'Clock the next morning the Troops being advanced, within two miles of Lexington, intelligence was received that about 500 men in arms were assembled, and determined to oppose the King's Troops: and on Major Pitcairn's galloping up to the head of the advanced companies, two officers informed him that a man (advanced from those that were assembled) had presented his musket, and attempted to shoot them, but the piece flashed in the pan. On this the Major gave directions to the troops to move forward, but on no account to fire, nor even to attempt it without orders. When they arrived at the end of the village, they observed about 200 armed men drawn up on a green, and when the troops came within one hundred yards of them, they began to file off towards some stone walls on their right flank, the Light Infantry observing this run after them. The Major instantly called to the soldiers not to fire but to surround and disarm them. Some of them who had jumped over a wall, then fired 4 or 5 Shot at the troops; wounded a man of the

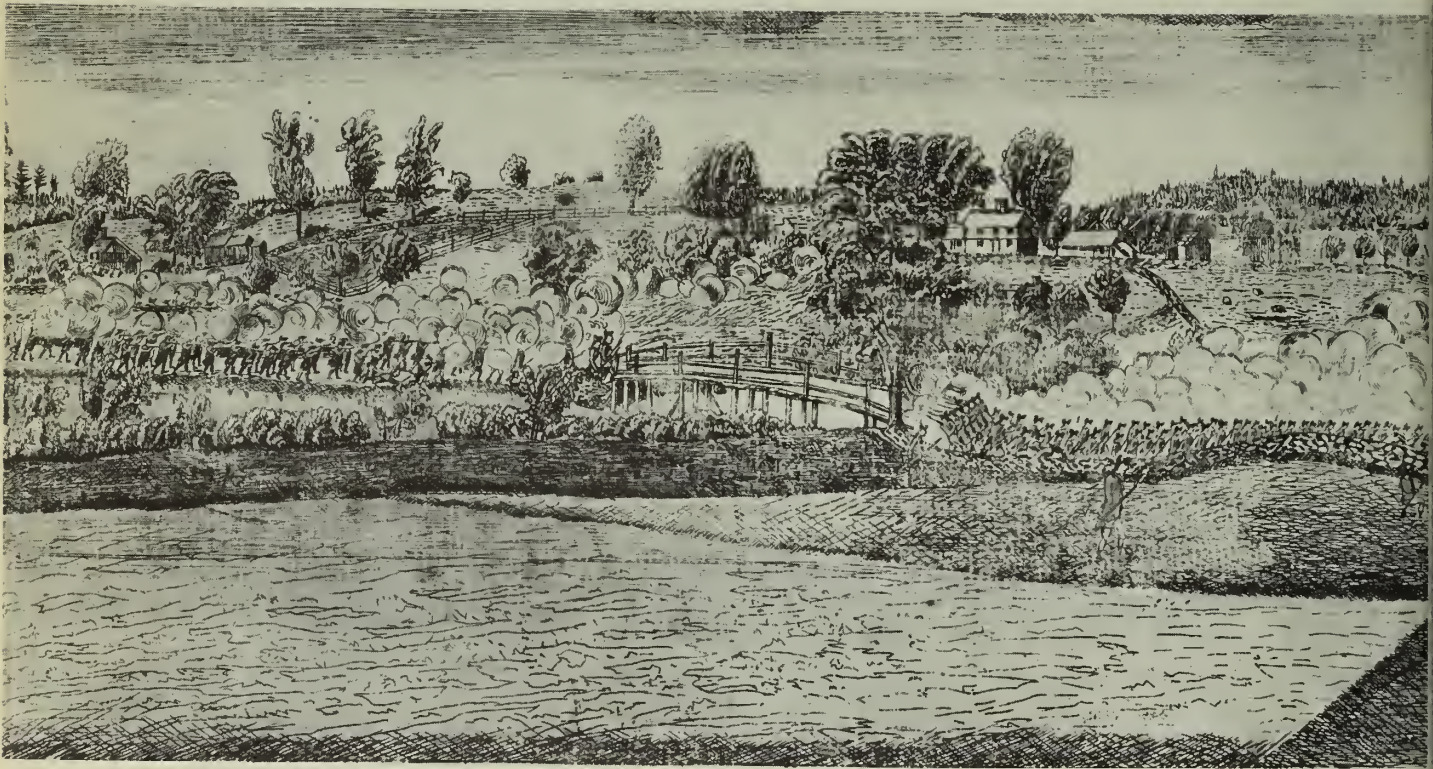
10th Regiment, and the Majors horse in two places and at the same time several shots were fired from a Meeting-house on the left – Upon this without any order or regularity the Light Infantry began a scattered fire, and killed several of the country people, but were silenced as soon as the authority of their Officers could make them.

After this Col: Smith marched up with the remainder of the detachment, and the whole body proceeded to Concord, where they arrived about 9 o’Clock without any thing further happening; but vast numbers of armed people were seen assembling on all the heights. While Col: Smith with the Grenadiers, and part of the Light Infantry remained at Concord to search for Cannon &c. there; he detached Capt. Parsons with six Light Companies to secure a bridge at some distance from Concord, and to proceed from thence to certain houses where it was supposed there was Cannon and Ammunition. Captain Parsons in pursuance of these orders, posted three companies at the bridge, and on some heights near it under the command of Capt Laurie of the 43rd Regiment and with the remainder went and destroyed some Cannon-wheels powder and ball – The people still continued increasing on the heights, and in about an hour after a large body of them began to move towards the bridge; the Light Companies of the 4th and 10th then descended and joined Capt Laurie, the people continued to advance in great numbers, and fired upon the King’s troops, killed three men, wounded four officers, one serjeant and four privates; upon which (after returning the fire) Capt Laurie and his Officers thought it prudent to retreat towards the main body at Concord, and were soon joined by two Companies of Grenadiers. When Capt Parsons returned with the three Companies over the bridge they observed three soldiers on the ground, one of them scalped, his head much mangled, and his ears cut off tho’ not quite dead; a sight which struck the soldiers with horror. Capt Parsons marched on and joined the main body, who were only waiting for his coming up, to march back to Boston – Colonel Smith had executed his orders, without opposition by destroying all the military stores he could find. Both the Colonel and Major Pitcairn having taken all possible pains to convince the inhabitants that no injury was intended them, and that if they opened their doors when required, to search for said stores, not the slightest mischief should be done. Neither had any of the people the least occasion to complain; but they were sulky and one of them even struck Major Pitcairn

Except Capt Laurie at the bridge, no hostilities happen’d from the affair at Lexington, until the troops began their march back. As soon as the troops had got out of the town of Concord they received a heavy fire on them from all sides from walls, fences, houses, trees, barns &c which continued without intermission, till they met the first brigade with two field pieces near Lexington ordered out under the command of Lord [Hugh] Percy to support them; Upon the firing of the field pieces the people’s fire was for a while silenced, but as they still continued to increase greatly in numbers they fired again as before from all places where they could find cover, upon the whole body and continued so doing for the space of fifteen miles – Notwithstanding their numbers, they did not attack openly during the whole day, but kept under cover on all occasions. The troops were very much fatigued, the greater part of them having been under arms all night, and made



Plan of Boston and vicinity, 1775.



(Top) *The engagement at Lexington, 1775.* (Bottom) *The engagement at Concord, 1775.*

a march of upwards of forty miles before they arrived at Charlestown, from whence they were ferried over to Boston –

The troops had above fifty killed, and many more wounded; reports are various of the loss sustained by the country-people, some make it very considerable, others not so much.

1. Trumbull Papers, IV, 762, ConnSL.

RICHARD REEVE TO SIR GRAY COOPER, SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH
TREASURY ¹

Sir I am directed by the Commissioners to transmit to You for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury the inclosed Copies of two Letters from Mr [Robert Stratford] Byrne Surveyor of the Customs at Bohemia and Sasafras with Copy of a Letter from the Collector & Comptroller of the Port of Chester and Petapso and the annexd Copy of Mr Byrnes Deposition, containing the Particulars of a violent Outrage committed upon him in the execution of his Duty on the 2d ultimo in the neighbourhood of George Town by a daring and licentious Rabble, together with a Copy of the Proceedings of the Governor and Council of the Province of Maryland thereupon –

And I am further directed to acquaint You for Their Lordships Information that the Commissioners have ordered Fifty pounds to be paid to Mr Byrne, by way of compensation for his Losses and sufferings and have granted him leave of absence for six Months upon his appointing a proper Person to officiate for him – I am with great Respect Sir [&c.]

Rich^d. Reeve

Custom House Boston 19th April 1775

1. MdHS Transcript from PRO, Treasury Papers, Bundle 438.

“REMARKS &CA. ONBOARD THE *Somerset*” ¹

April 1775

Moored between Boston and Charlestown

Wednesday 19 A M The Boats ret'd at 6 sent the Marines to Charlestown P M
Received the Marines on board: Boats employed carrying the
Troops from Charlestown to Boston. Stopped all Communica-
tion between Charles Town & Boston Pr Order

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/906.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 19th. [April, 1775]

Last night between 10 and 11 oclock all the Grenadiers and Light Infantry of the Army making about 600 Men (under the command of Lt. Coll. Smith of the 10th and Major Pitcairn of the Marines) embarked and were landed upon the opposite shore on Cambridge Marsh; few but the Commandg. Officers knew what expedition we were going upon. After getting over the Marsh where we were wet up to the knees, we were halted in a dirty road and stood there 'till two oclock in the morning waiting for provisions to be brought from the boats and to be divided, and which most of the Men threw away, having carried some with

'em. At 2 oclock we began our March by wading through a very long ford up to our Middles: after going a few miles we took 3 or 4 People who were going off to give intelligence; about 5 miles on this side of a Town called Lexington which lay in our road, . . . we waited a considerable time there and at length proceeded on our way to Concord, which we then learnt was our destination, in order to destroy a Magazine of Stores collected there . . . we march'd into the Town after taking possession of a Hill with a Liberty Pole on it and a flag flying which was cut down; the Yankies had that Hill but left it to us; we expected they wou'd have made a stand there, but they did not chuse it . . . having done the business we were sent upon, We set out upon our return; before the whole had quitted the Town we were fired on from Houses and behind Trees, and before we had gone $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile we were fired on from all sides, but mostly from the Rear, where People had hid themselves in houses 'till we had passed and then fired; the Country was an amazing strong one, full of Hills, Woods, stone Walls, &c., which the Rebels did not fail to take advantage of, for they were all lined with People who kept an incessant fire upon us, as we did too upon them but not with the same advantage, for they were so concealed there was hardly any seeing them: in this way we marched between 9 and 10 miles, their numbers increasing from all parts, while ours was reducing by deaths, wounds and fatigue, and we were totally surrounded with such an incessant fire as it's impossible to conceive, our ammunition was likewise near expended . . . When we got to Menotomy there was a very heavy fire; after that we took the short cut into the Charles Town road, very luckily for us too, for the Rebels thinking we shou'd endeavour to return by Cambridge had broken down the Bridge and had a great number of Men to line the road and to receive us there; however we threw them and went on to Charles Town without any great interruption. We got there between 7 and 8 oclock at night, took possession of the hill above the Town and waited for the Boats to carry us over which came some time after; the Rebels did not chuse to follow us to the Hill as they must have fought us on open ground and that they did not like . . . we embarked and got home very late in the night. Thus ended this Expedition, which from beginning to end was as ill plan'd and ill executed as it was possible to be; had we not idled away three hours on Cambridge Marsh waiting for provisions that were not wanted, we shou'd have had no interruption at Lexington, but by our stay the Country People had got intelligence and time to assemble. We shou'd have reached Concord soon after day break, before they cou'd have heard of us, by which we shou'd have destroyed more Cannon and Stores, which they had had time enough to convey away before our arrival; we might also have got easier back and not been so much harrassed, as they wou'd not have had time to assemble so many People; even the People of Salem and Marblehead above 20 miles off had intelligence and time enough to march and meet us on our return; they met us somewhere about Menotomy but they lost a good many for their pains. Thus for a few trifling stores the Grenrs. and Lt Infantry had a march of about 50 Miles (going and returning) through an Enemy's Country, and in all human probability must every Man have been cut off if the Brigade had not fortunately come to their Assistance; for when the Brigade joined us there were very few Men had any ammunition left, and so fatigued that we cou'd not keep

flanking parties out, so that we must soon have laid down our Arms, or been picked off by the Rebels at their pleasure – nearer to – and we not able to keep 'em off.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 31–37.

COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen

New York April 19th 1775

The following very interesting Accounts were this Day received by the Snow *General Johnson*, Capt Dean, in 31 days from England.² The Writer is a Person of undoubted Veracity & the best means of Intelligence, who may be depended on, having for these Twelve Months past, always furnished the most certain Advices of the Ministry's Designs &c. In Consideration of which & the present Posture of Affairs in America in general; but more particularly, on Account of the Situation of your Province, and the Consequences to which it is more immediately liable; it is thought an indispensable Duty to give you this late Advice. – It is unfeignedly wish'd that you may improve it to your own Safety, as well as to the Advantage of the whole Continent. We have the honor to be with great respect, your obedient servants

Henry Remsen, Deputy Chairman

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 45.

2. Letters from London of February 24 and March 1, 1775, which will be found under those dates in the European Theatre section.

20 Apr.

RIVINGTON'S *New York Gazetteer*, THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1775

Boston, April 20.

Last Tuesday night the grenadiers and light companies belonging to the several regiments in this town, were ferrying in long boats from the bottom of the Common over to Phips's farm in Cambridge; from whence they proceeded on their way to Concord, where they arrived early yesterday. . . . A general battle ensued, which, from what we can learn, was supported with great spirit on both sides.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

Boston April 20th 1775

I shall be Obligated to you, if you would Order Another Schooner as soon as possible to Marshfield, as Mr Thomas is Writing to the Inhabitants to come away here; and I propose at same time to Order Capt Balfour to come off with his detachment, and you will be so good to take all Steps that can facilitate this Business with all dispatch –

I have the honor

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston 20 April 1775

I have ordered Lieutt [George] Dawson, in the *Hope* Schooner, to sail immediately, with Two wood Sloops that I have prest, to bring away Capt Balfour's detachment from Marshfield, and all the friends of Government And your Excellency may depend that not a Moments time shall be lost in executing this Service. I have the Honor to be with great regard Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Preston*, CAPTAIN JOHN ROBINSON,
COMMANDING ¹

April 1775

Remarks Boston Harbour.

Thursday 20 A M heard Several Volleys of Small Arms which proved to be the Kings Troops Engaging the Rebels. at noon made the Signl for all Boats to attend Mann'd and Arm'd. P M Sent the Boats to bring the Marines and third Brigade over from Charles-Town The first on board and the Latter to Boston.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 20th [April 1775]

. . . general Orders were issued by him [the Admiral] to the respective captains & commanders of his Majesty's ships & vessels that all scows, sloops, schooners & boats of every Kind (except the fishing boats) should be brought as they could be picked up & Kept to the Southward of the long Wharf under the care of a Guard & none to be allowed to pass in the Harbour except with the Kings troops without his written leave; and every Ship was Kept clear for Action during the Night, with Boats armed alongside ready to be manned. The number of Guard Boats was doubled and every necessary direction given to the Ships in case the Rebels should attempt to force the lines, some thousands in Arms having already assembled at Roxburgh [sic! Roxbury]. Capt [Edward] LeCras was ordered to acquaint the Select Men of Charles Town that if they suffered the Rebels to take possession of their town or erect any works upon the Heights, the *Somerset* should fire upon them; Captain [John] Macartney at Nantasket had directions to keep a strict look out upon point Alderton, a report being spread that the Rebels intended to fortify it. Captain [Thomas] Bishop was ordered to caution the Inhabitants of Marblehead against assisting the Rebels upon pain of being considered as such and of having their Town destroyed. The *Falcon* Sloop was ordered to hawl as far into Gallows Creek to the Southward of Boston as possible. The Captain of the *Nautilus* off the Magazine point, was directed to arm a flat bottomed Boat, and with the assistance of Boats from other Ships to take care that Guard should be rowed every night as high up the River as possible. The *Somerset* was to suffer no person to cross the River without the Governors permission . . . And

after Gunfiring in the Evening no Boat was to pass till day light, except those rowing Guard.²

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 74, 75, MassHS Transcript.

2. Most of the orders issued by Graves at this time are contained in the Appendix to his narrative.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] Apr. 20 [1775]

At VIII o'Clock this morning an Express arrived in Town from Providence, with the following Letters —

Providence April 19th 1775

Sir

10 o'Clock at Night

Having received Intelligence that our Breth[ern] in Mass: Bay are attacked by a body of regular Troops and that many of our Friends are slain.— These are to request your Honor that you will be pleased to call the Genl. Assembly of this Colony to meet together as soon as possible (by Monday next at furthest) that they may make such necessary preparations for the comon Defence as shall be thot necessary—We are your Honors Obed. Servts.

P.S. There are two Gentlemen here from the Prov. Cong. now waiting to confer with the Assembly. We beg your Honors Answer — Copy —

N.B. The foregoing is directed to Gov. [Joseph] Wanton and is signed by 26 of the principal Inhabitants of Providence.

Sir This Evening Intelligence hath been rec'd that about Twelve hundred of the Regulars have proceeded from Boston towards Concord, and having fired upon and killed a number of the Inhabitants of Lexington are now actually engaged in butchering and destroying our Brethern there in the most inhuman manner, that the Inhabitants oppose them with zeal and courage and numbers have already fallen on both sides—Reinforcements were at Ten o'clock under Motion from Boston, and the Provincials were alarmed and mustering as fast as possible, it appears necessary therefore that we immediately make some provision for their assistance, and his Honor the Lieutenant General desires your immediate Attendance to advise and order in that behalf. His being very ill occasions my writing in his Behalf—We shall impatiently wait your Arrival, as Numbers are ready and wait only Orders to proceed —

The Countrys Friend and Yours

S[tephen] Hopkins

Providence, Wednesday night Ten o'Clock
To Major General [Stephen] Potter.

Upon Receipt of this news the Town was thrown into Alarm, and all went into preparation — The Govr. issued Warrants for calling the Assembly to meet at Providence next Saturday. Gen. Potter (who lives at Bristol) set off this morning with numbers from Bristol and Warren. None have marched from Newport

to day, tho' Col. Dayton tells me this afternoon that there are five hundred armed and ready to march, waiting only the Governors Orders. The Tories have, in order to intimidate, circulated thro' the Town that Capt. [James] Wallace of the *Rose Man o' War*, insolently says he will fire upon the Town, and lay it in ashes, if any march from hence – This intimidates some people. They are training, exercising and preparing all day; It is said that the Regulars coming up with about 30 minute men exercising at Lexington, ordered them to lay down their arms – that upon Refusal, the Regulars dastardly fired upon them and killed six – that the others returned the fire and killed some of the Regulars – But of this there is no certainty – Gov. Hopkins does not inform the basis of his Intelligence – dont even date his letter – And it is not known whether the Troops marched to Lexington Yesterday Morning, or before. It is probable the whole Country is thrown into the same alarm as last September.² The good Lord direct and overrule all for his glory, and the good of his Chosen—It is happy that the Troops have given the first blow – the way is open and clear now for the Americans. If they will but tarry out of Boston a few days, I doubt not the Americans will give a good Account of them. But I fear their cowardice has made them instantly return to Boston. All that I rely upon in this News is that they have marched to Lexington, and killed a few men. I am not a little apprehensive that it may prove only another false alarm designedly excited by our people to prevent the Troops from marching out of Boston into the Country –

1. Stiles, II, 33–35, I.C.

2. The September alarm was occasioned by a report that the British were bombarding Boston. The false news was flashed by express through Rhode Island and Connecticut and aroused much excitement during September 3, 1774, until it was disproved. See Stiles, I, 209, 210.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTYS SCHOONER *Magdalen*, HENRY COLINS,
COMMANDING ¹

April 1775 Moord abreast Burwels Ferry in James River
Thursday 20th at 3 A M landed 20 Men Armed to take some Gunpowder out
 of the Magazine at Williamsbg at 6 the people returned with 15
 half Barrs lost one Scabbard for Bayonet by handing the Arms
 into the Boat at 1 P M had Intelligence that the Inhabitants at
 Williamsburgh were under Arms and threatned to Attack. the
 Schooner got in readiness loaded with Round & Grape and
 put the Vessel in a State of Defence

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/3894.

21 Apr.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1775

Williamsburg, April 21.

By Capt. Taylor, from Liverpool, there is advice that things had taken a sudden turn in the House of Commons, in favour of America; and that it was expected Lord North would resign, in a very short time.¹

This morning between 3 and 4 o'clock, all the gunpowder in the magazine, to the amount as we hear, of about 20 barrels, was carried off in his Excellency

the Governor's waggon, escorted by a detachment of marines from the armed schooner *Magdalen*, now lying at Burwell's ferry, and lodged on board that vessel.

1. This report, prevalent at the time, was due to a discussion in the House of Commons concerning the possibility of repealing certain acts in favor of more conciliatory measures.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1775, SUPPLEMENT

Williamsburg, April 21.

To the MERCHANTS and MASTERS of Vessels.

THIS day the schooner *Endeavour*, Michael Dyer commander, was tried and condemned in the court of Admiralty, for taking on board Indian corn without having previously given a non-enumeration bond; when the Judge was pleased to declare, that he should not consider the toleration allowed by the officers of the customs, in not requiring the bond to be given until the Captain went to clear out, as any excuse for the skipper, but that he could in future, enforce the severity of the laws upon every delinquent.

22 Apr.

BENJAMIN GREENLEAF TO THE HAMPTON COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE ¹

[Extract]

Newburyport, April 22, 1775

We were unhappily thrown into distress yesterday, by false accounts received by two or three persons, and spread abroad, of a number of Soldiers being landed at Ipswich and murdering the inhabitants. We have since heard that it arose in the first place from a discovery of some small Vessels near the entrance of their River – one, at least, known to be a cutter – and it was apprehended that they were come to relieve the captives there in Jail.

I am, Gentlemen [&c.]

B. Greenleaf

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 374.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Watertown, April 22, 1775 4 o'clock P.M.

Ordered, That Mr. Gerry, Colonel Cushing, Colonel Barrett, Captain Stone, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Watson, and Esquire Dix, be a Committee to take Depositions *in perpetuam*, from which a full account of the Transactions of the Troops under General Gage, in their route to and from Concord, &c. on Wednesday last, may be collected, to be sent to England by the first ship from Salem.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 765, from Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

[Extract]

Preston Boston 22d April 1775

Sir, Captain [John] Collins in his Majesty's Sloop *Nautilus* arrived here the 14th. in the Evening and Captain [John] Linzee in the *Falcon* the 16th. By these Vessels I have received their Lordships Orders, your Letters, with Duplicates there-

of according to the annexed Schedule. I am extremely happy in their Lordship's Approbation of my Conduct and can at present only repeat my Assurances of paying the strictest attention to all their Commands.

After the Arrival of the two Sloops above mentioned I ordered the *Nautilus* to get ready for Sea again immediately, intending to send either her or the *Swan* to Georgia, where their Lordships have been pleased to order a Sloop to be stationed in future; and have appointed the *Falcon* to lie within Hull point, between it and Pettick's Island, where I have long desired to place a Sloop; but the March of part of the Army and their being unexpectedly attacked by the Rebels on the 19th. instant has entirely put a stop to my stationing these Vessels as I had intended.

On the 18th in the Evening all the boats of the Squadron landed the Grenadiers and Light Infantry of the Army near the entrance of Cambridge River, from whence they marched towards Concord; and in the Morning a Brigade followed them round by the way of Cambridge Bridge. I am concerned to acquaint you that meeting with a considerable body of armed Men an Engagement ensued wherein many were Killed and wounded on our side. The Rebels followed the Indian manner of fighting, concealing themselves behind Hedges and Trees, and skulking in Woods and Houses, where they galled the Soldiers exceedingly . . . The Troops returning that Evening to Charles Town, and every Boat was employed to bring them over to Boston. I can with great truth inform you that the *Somerset* being within a Quarter of a mile of Charles Town Kept its Inhabitants in awe and thereby secured to the Troops an unmolested retreat into that Town, and a peaceable Embarkation for Boston.

Accounts of this Battle you may imagine instantly flew to all parts of the Country, and great numbers of their Militia and Minute Men are assembled at Cambridge and Roxbury and its Neighbourhood. They are at this time intrenching themselves at Roxbury, and have absolutely prohibited every kind of provision from being brought to Boston. They are so elated with having destroyed a few of the King's Troops that they talk of erecting Batteries at different places to destroy the Men of War, of bombarding the Town, and taking Castle William. I have sent to acquaint the Inhabitants of Charles Town with my determination to destroy it whenever I perceive them making any preparations for erecting Batteries to annoy the Kings Ships, which I shall most certainly do the moment I perceive them fairly at Work.

Last Night the Rebels were reconnoitring Castle William in Canoes, and upon being challenged fired at the Centinels. They escaped by the darkness of the Night, but today the *Asia* and *Hope* Schooner are so placed that every Attempt upon the Castle must be fatal to them.

The *Falcon* is in Gallows Creek. The *Nautilus* at the N.W. End of Boston. Every Sail is kept in Town, and the utmost precautions are taken for the general Safety . . . Their Lordships may depend on my heartily co-operating with the General and on my giving him every assistance in my power in support of such measures as shall be thought best for his Majesty's Service. I am &c.

Sam Graves

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1775

Williamsburg, April 22.

Last Thursday night [April 20] Capt. [Henry] Collins, with a party of men, belonging to the *Magdalen* armed schooner, by command of Lord Dunmore, came to this city, from Burwell's ferry, and privately removed out of the magazine, and carried on board the said schooner, about 20 barrels of gunpowder belonging to this colony. The inhabitants were alarmed with the intelligence early yesterday morning, the Common Hall assembled, and the following address was presented to the Governor.

To his Excellency the Right Hon. John Earl of Dunmore, his Majesty's Lieutenant, Governor General, and Commander in Chief of the colony and dominion of Virginia.

The humble Address of the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, and Common Council of the city of Williamsburg.

My Lord,

We his Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, and Common Council, of the city of Williamsburg, in Common Hall assembled, humbly beg leave to represent to your Excellency, that the inhabitants of this city were this morning exceedingly alarmed by a report that a large quantity of gunpowder was in the preceding night, while they were sleeping in their beds, removed from the public magazine in this city, and conveyed, under an escort of marines, on board one of his Majesty's armed vessels lying at a ferry on James river.

We beg leave to represent to your Excellency, that as this magazine was erected at the public expence of this colony, and appropriated to the safe keeping of such munitions as should be there lodged from time to time, for the protection and security of the country, by arming thereout such of the militia as might be necessary in case of invasion and insurrections, they humbly conceive it to be the only proper repository to be resorted to in times of imminent danger.

We further beg leave to inform your Excellency, that, from various reports at present prevailing, in different parts of the country, we have too much reason to believe that some wicked and designing persons have instilled the most diabolical notions into the minds of our slaves, and that therefore the utmost attention to our internal security is become the more necessary.

The circumstances of this city, my Lord, we consider as peculiar and critical. The inhabitants, from the situation of the magazine, in the midst of the city, have, for a long tract of time, been exposed to all those dangers which have happened in many countries from explosions and other accidents. They have, from time to time thought it incumbent on them to guard the magazine. For their security they have, for some time past, judged it necessary to keep strong patrols on foot; in their present circumstance, they, to have the chief and necessary means of their defense removed, cannot but be extremely

alarmed. Considering ourselves as guardians of the city we therefore humbly desire to be informed by your Excellency, upon what motives, and for what particular purpose, the powder has been carried off in such a manner; and we earnestly request your Excellency to order it to be immediately returned to the magazine.

To which his Excellency returned this verbal answer: That, hearing of an insurrection in a neighbouring county, he had removed the powder from the magazine, where he did not think it secure, to a place of perfect security; and that upon his word and honour, whenever it was wanted in any insurrection, it should be delivered in half an hour; that he had removed it in the night time to prevent any alarm, and that Captain Collins had his express commands for the part he had acted; he was surprised to hear the people were under arms on this occasion, and that he should not think it prudent to put powder into their hands in such a situation.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS, LONDON¹

[Extract]

Charles Town So Carolina 22nd April 1775

p *Swallow Packet*

the people of this province are so alarmed by Lord North's conciliatory plan which they conceive is intended more effectually to enslave them, that they are, from the example of General [Thomas] Gage when he Seized Arms & Amunition which were private property, taking Such measures as "prudence & necessity" dictate – *they* have removed all the provincial Muskets Bayonets &c. which belong indeed to them Selves, from the public Armory to places more accessible to *themselves* & *they* have also taken into their possession all the Gun powder which was in the public Magazines Besides. I Say *they*, from common report, as well as from probability – *they* do not Stop *here*, but are concerting measures for enlarging their Stock of Arms & Amunition & probably will not fail – a poor figure Some people think the Carolina Militia would make in the field – I hope they will never appear there in opposition to British Troops – I hope British Troops will never provoke them to fly to the last resource – be that as it may – there appears a general determination against a tame Submission – & the[y] *Will*, will in the worst event by arms, remain unconquered – yet I think I can answer at the hazard of my fortune & Life that not a Man in this province wishes for independence upon Great Britain or but wishes to return to, & remain in that State of dependence & Subordination which had for more than a Century been found to promote the honour & dignity of the Mother Country – the Interest & happiness of both parties – Your Administration have been egregiously imposed upon by false information & they Seem now though Sensible of their errors, determined to persevere in them – Let them go on & work the destruction of the Kingdom in which they reside – God forbid! – I have Still hopes that Wisdom will interpose & Save *them*.

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–1775, SCHS.



VOL. IV. DUNLAP'S NUMB. 791

Pennsylvania

OR,

GENERAL

MONDAY,

Packet

THE

ADVERTISER.

JUNE 19th, 1775

the encouragement of the British fish-
 old North moved the following Re-
 that it is the opinion of this Com-
 e following bounties should be paid:
 40l. for 25 vessels of the burden of
 upwards, that shall first arrive from
 with a cargo of Bank fish and not
 in talos; and disposing of the same,
 second cargo of the same.
 that 20l. per vessel; for 100 vessels;

...at Boston.

BASSETERRE, (St. Christopher.) April 22.
 On Thursday last arrived here from England,
 his Majesty's ship Hind, Capt. Garnier, hav-
 ing put in here for a pilot; her destination is
 to be between St. Eustatius, and the Dor, and
 Pickley-pear, to prevent the American vessels
 trading to St. Eustatius.

CAMBRIDGE, June 8.
 We have the pleasure to inform the public

On Friday arriv-
 ianin, Captain T.
 three days from Cap-
 son reports, that he
 May several times
 board three regiments
 regiment, at the
 embark, and that
 sail for New-York
 be expected.
 Yesterday one M.
 were informed

(Top) Section from a map of North America showing the West Indies, 1775. (Bottom) Extract from the Pennsylvania Packet, June 19, 1775.

"NEWS ITEM FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES" ¹

Basseterre (St. Christophers) April 22. [1775].

On Thursday last [April 20] arrived here from England, his Majesty's ship *Hind*, Capt. Garnier, having put in here for a pilot; her destination is to be between St. Eustatius and the Dog and Pickley-pear, to prevent the American vessels trading to St. Eustatius.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, June 19, 1775.

23 Apr. (Sunday)

JONATHAN JACKSON TO WILLIAM WHIPPLE, PORTSMOUTH ¹

Gentn

Newburyport 23d April 1775.

In Answer to your Letter by Mr Morrison we have first to inform you we have among other Regulations that are expensive, kept Expresses going between us & our Army ever since the first Alarm – we have no Assistance from any Towns to the Southward of us, & can't think you expect any from us between here & your place – We shall be always ready to give you every Information in our power worth communicating, & if any Alarms come of Danger approaching us or you we will endeavour to give it immediately by Expresses of our own – when we know the Regulation of your Carrier, we will if not interrupted by Business still more important have all Dispatches of Intelligence ready for him – We are informed Hampton has proposed joining you in the Expence –

With Respect to our Army we have many Accounts of their number & state – but as the Advices to us from their Leaders do not touch upon these matters, we can refer you to none more to be depended upon than Colo Timo Pickering's Letter Capt Burnham of Hampton Falls carried along & your Printer Mr Fowle intended to take with him to Portsmo – With Respect to Marblehead we were informed last Eveng by Mr [Elbridge] Gerry (one of their Selectmen) who left it about Noon – that Capt [Thomas] Bishop of the Frigate ² there sent for the Selectmen of the Town to confer with them upon it's Safety in consequence of Orders he had received – Mr Gerry added, the Report [w]as, he mentioned *it* with Tears in his Eyes – Mr G[erry] did not choose to trust himself on board & came here – the other Selectmen he told us determined to go on board – we are informed To day not by Express but by a Person who left Salem at 4 oClock yesterday P M that it was there reported that the Town of Marblehead had submitted & upon the following Terms – To send no Men nor Provisions to our Army nor give them any Assistance & not to be seen with any Arms – whether their Port is to be kept open or not, we are not told – The town of Salem have appointed a Committee to meet Tomorrow mornng with Committees they proposed shou'd join them from the other Trading Towns in this County – this Town has appointed a Committee also – I am Gentn p[er] order and in Behalf of the Committee [&c.]

Jon^a Jackson

P S At present we keep Expresses for every 24 Hours

1. Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis. William Whipple (1730–1785), prominent New Hampshire mrechant.
2. The 20 gun ship *Lively*.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Concord], Sunday, April 23, 1775.

Afternoon, 2 o'clock.

Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry read in his place a Letter from Marblehead, reporting that the British Man-of-War *Lively* was lying off the Harbour of that Town; representing that their means of defence were inadequate to repel attack; and asking direction and aid; upon which,

Resolved, That the matter subside until further information.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 765, from Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Boston April 23d 1775

When the Ship is under sail and so far out, that there is no possibility of her returning; Captn [John] Bishop to examine every letter on board her those directed for Doctr [Benjamin] Franklin, [Arthur] Lee, [William Bolla] Borland &c to be sent to Boston; any other Suspicious letters to be put under Cover to the Secretary of State, and given to Lieut [Joseph] Nun,² Capn Bishop telling his Lordship, that he was directed in this Critical Juncture, to send him the Inclosed for his perusal, as they might contain some Intelligence of the Rebels here –

[Endorsed] Copy of a Memorandum sent Admiral Graves April 23d 1775

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. Graves to Stephens, May 13, 1775; "My last Letter to you dated April 22d went by Lieut. Nunn in a Brig from Salem." Graves's Conduct, 84, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES'S SECRETARY, G. GEFFERINA, TO CAPTAIN EDWARD LE CRAS, R.N.¹

Sir

Boston 23d April 1775

I am commanded by the Admiral to acquaint you that an Officer & a Party of Marines from the *Asia* are at Work on the Hill opposite the *Somerset* under the direction of Col. [Thomas] James of the Artillery, and that the Admiral would have a Marine Officer with a Party from the *Somerset*, equal in Number to the *Asia's*, take this Work day by day about until it is finished, or you have the Admirals further directions herein, – Your Party to go on shore tomorrow Morning at 5 o'Clock.²

The Admiral directed me to say that he has agreed with the General for his Aid de Camps to grant Passes by his Excellency's Order, and that therefore the Generals Pass signed by an Aid de Camp and the Admirals signed by himself are to be the only means whereby Persons can either come in or go out of Boston in future, therefore Mr Windship must, after he is in again in Boston, have a regular Pass before he is allowed to return to Charles Town. I am &c

G. Gefferina

Captain Le Cras

Somerset Charles Town Ferry

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix 407, 408, MassHS Transcript.

2. The battery on Copp's Hill, the erection of which, according to Graves, "afforded much pleasantry to the Garrison, particularly among those who did not readily conceive the intent [to protect the *Somerset* from flanking fire] it was christened soon by the name of the Admirals Battery and always spoken of with a smile." Graves's Conduct, 78, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *Magdalen*, HENRY COLINS,
COMMANDING ¹

April 1775 Moord abreast Burwels Ferry in James River
Sunday 23d at 8 A M Captain [George] Montagu took the powder with him
 on board the *Liberty* Sloop and immediately made for Hampton
 Road

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/3894.

24 Apr.

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

Halifax April 24th 1775

It gives me great pleasure that his Majesty, approves of the measures I took to preserve the peace of this Colony from those Popular & Tumultuous Disorders, which have arisen even to open Acts of Rebellion in some of the other Colonies in America, the examples then made had its proper effect, & there has not since been the least Tendency of that sort, a Ship Driven from New York ² has arrived here, & are Selling some of their Goods, & Storeing others without the least kind of Opposition, nor to the free importation of every kind of Merchandize tho we are loudly threatened from the Continent of their breaking of[f] all intercourse of Trade with us. I hope this instance of the Obedient Conduct of this Colony on these Occasions will recommend them Strongly to the Consideration of his Majesty and Parliament

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 217/51: 175.

2. The ship *Beulah*; see *New York Gazette* March 13, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Cambridge] April 24, 1775

Resolved, That the inhabitants of Chelsea and Malden be, and hereby are absolutely forbidden to fire upon, or otherwise injure any Seamen belonging to the Navy, under the command of Admiral [Samuel] Graves, unless fired upon by them, until the said inhabitants of Chelsea and Malden receive orders from this Committee, or the General of the Provincial Forces, to do so.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 745, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Sunday, April 24, Afternoon, 2 o'clock

Voted, That a Committee be appointed to draw up a Narrative of the Massacre on Wednesday last [April 19]

Ordered, That Dr. [Benjamin] Church, [Jr.], Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, & Mr. [Thomas] Cushing, be that Committee.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 24th April 1775

Lieutt Cumming who will have the Honor to deliver to your Excellency this Letter, can inform you fully of the disturbed State of this Province, of the Action between the Kings Forces and the Rebels of the 19th instant and of their prohibiting every kind of Provisions from being brought to Town. My particular Request to your Excellency on this Occasion is that you will please to allow small Vessels to come from Nova Scotia with fresh Beef, Mutton, Poultry, Vegetables of all Kinds, Butter, Cheese, and in general every kind of Provision Each Vessel to have your Excellency's Pass to prevent her being seized as New England Property, and to be directed to proceed straight to Boston. If the Inhabitants in your Excellency's Government will be diligent on this Emergency, they may reap very considerable profit and be of great service to the Kings Forces here; And your Excellency may rest assured that nothing shall be taken from them without sufficient payment, and that they will be permitted to return whenever they think proper. I am satisfied your Excellency will on this Occasion facilitate as much as possible the bringing Supplies to Boston on which the Good of his Majesty's Service here so much depends. I am &c.

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 408, 409, MassHS Transcript.

JOHN HANCOCK TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Worcester 24th April 1775 (Mondy even)

Mr. [Samuel] Adams & myself just Arived here & find no intellegance from you & no Guard, we just hear an Express has just past thro this Place to you from New York informing that Administration is bent upon pushing matters And that Four Regements are expected there; How are we to proceed? Where are our Brethren? Surely we ought to be supported I had rather be with you, & at present am fully dertimened to be with you before I proceed. I Beg by the Return of this Express to hear from you & pray furnish us with Depositions of the Conduct of the Troops the certainty of their firing first, & every Circumstance relative to the Conduct of the Troops from the 19th instant to this time ² that we may be able to give some Accot of matters as we proceed & especially at Philadelphia –³ And I beg you woud order your Secy to make out a Copy of your proceedings since what has taken Place & what your Plan is What Prisoners We have & what they have of ours, who of Note was kill'd on both sides who Commands our Forces & are our Men in good Spirits? for God's sake do not suffer the Spirit to subside untill they have perfected the Reduction of our Enemies. Boston must be Entered the Troops must be sent away – Our Friends are Valuable but our Country must be saved I have an interest in that Town, what can be the Enjoyment of that to me if I am oblidged to hold it at the Will of Genl. [Thomas] Gage or any one else I doubt not your Vigilence your Fortitude & Resolutions. Do let us know how you proceed – we must have the Castle the Ships must be – Stop up the Harbour against large Vessels coming [in]

you know better what to do that[n] I can point out Where is Mr [Thomas] Cushing is Mr. [Robert Treat] Payne & [John] Adams to be with us, What are we to depend upon we travel rather as Deserters which I will not submit to, I will return & join you if I cannot travel in Reputation – I wish to hear from you Pray spend a tho't upon our scituations. I will not detain the Man as I want much to hear from you. How goes on in the [Provincial] Congress; who is your President; Are the Members hearty Pray remember Mr. Adams & myself to all Friends God be with you I am Gentlemen [&c.]

John Hancock

pray Give me a particular Answer to my Queries

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 107–109.

2. Since the battle of Lexington and Concord.

3. Hancock was enroute to attend the Second Continental Congress.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1775

Newport, April 24.

Last Wednesday morning [April 19] the point ferry-boat had two shot fired at her from the tender of the ship *Rose* in this harbour, one of which went between the post-rider and the ferryman.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH, MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF
NEW YORK ¹

Monday 24 April [1775]

A Council – summoned to meet instanter 12 O'clock

The Town alarmed Yesterday with News from Boston & sundry Commotions here in consequence of it.

The Populace had seized the City Arms after demanding the Key & the Magazene out of Town and taken out 12 Hundd Weight of Powder & threatened to attack 106 Soldiers under the Command of Major [Isaac] Hamilton.

The Qn What is to be done? – Agreed that to know our own Strength the Judges in Town the Field officers of the Militia the Mayor & Recorder attend by ½ after this Afternoon –

Met again. As before & were joined by Apthorpe with Colo [Leonard] Lispenard Judge [Thomas] Jones & the Mayor – Lispenard said he could give Govt no aid from the Militia, for they were all Liberty Boys who would keep the Peace of the City in other Respects – The Mayor said that the Magistratic Authority was gone . . . We were thus unanimously of Opinion that we had no Power to do anything & the best mode of proceeding for private Safety and general Peace was to use Diswasion from Violence.

1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, 221.

OFFICERS OF THE INDEPENDENT MILITIA COMPANY OF FREDERICKSBURG TO
CAPTAIN WILLIAM GRAYSON ¹

(Copy)

Fredericksburg [Virginia] 24th April 1775.

Sir From undoubted Authority we receiv'd here this day Morning – the very disagreeable Intelligence that in the Night of Thursday last Capt [Henry] Collins Commander of one of his Majesty's Sloops of War by – Command of his Excellency

the Governor assisted by a Company of Marines carried off all the powder from the Magazine in the City of Williamsburg & deposited it on board his Vessel which lay at Burwell's fferry, about five miles below the City.

The said Authority informs us that the Corporn of the City of Wmsburg addressed the Govr on that occasion The people had received no Satisfaction nor are they likely to recover the powder tho' it is so very necessary for the security of the Country.

This being a day of Meeting the independt Co of this Town, they considered it necessary, to take the Matter into serious Considn and are come to an unanimous Resolution that a Submission to so arbitrary an Exertion of Government may not only prejudice the common Cause by introducing a suspicion of a defection of this Colony from the noble pursuit but will encourage the tools of despotism to commit further Acts of Violence in this Colony and more especially subject the Arms in the Magazine to the same fate of the powder.

In these sentiments this Compy could but determine that a Number of public spirited Gentn should embrace this oppority of showing their Zeal in the grand Cause by marching to – Wmsbg to enquire into this Affair and there to take such steps as may best answer the purpose of recovering the powder & securing the Arms now in the Magazine to this End they have determined to hold themselves in readiness to march from this place as light horse on Saturday Morning and in the mean time [su]bmit the Matter to the deterrn of yours & the neighbouring Counties whom Expresses are purposely forwarded We address you in the [na]me of our Co as their Officers & are Sir yr very hble Servt

Hugh Mercer	G. Weedon
Alexr Spotswood	Jno Willis

1. Washington Papers, vol. 14–15, 1868, LC. This is printed in S.M. Hamilton, ed., *Letters to Washington, 1775–1777* (Boston and New York, 1898–1902), vol. 1, 163, 164.

RICHARD HENRY LEE TO COLONEL LANDON CARTER ¹

Dear Sir,

Chantilly 24th April 1775

We had heard of the Lords ² flight before your letter came, and we apprehend it to be for fear of reprisal, as we suppose one part of the Ministerial plan has been already executed in Boston by seizing the Massachusetts proportion of the proscribed Americans, of which there are 32. Some Virginians are in the black list. Manuscript intelligence from London 10 Feby from our most vigilant sensible well informed friends, put the determined hostility of Ministry beyond doubt – They have to a Man both publickly & privately, solemnly avowed it. The notorious practice of this profligate Administration being to deceive with lies and flattering appearances in the very moment of determined vengeance would render belief in any thing they say or do, sottish in the extreme. When they offer any thing favorable, a wise American should say with the cautious Trojan "*Timeo Donais et dona ferentes*" – Unluckily for the Liverpool news, that Greenwood who conveys it, is a Ministerial Agent, and his name is here among those Villains who were Securities for the safety of the Ministerial Tea sent to S. Carolina. You may be assured Sir that the Ministry and all their Agents will lie, deceive, and blind by all manner of means; well knowing they have no chance for success but by such

Dear Sir,

Charlottesville 24th April 1775 (138)

We had heard of the Lords flight before your letter came, and we apprehend it to be for fear of surprisal, as we suppose one part of the Ministerial plan has been already executed in Boston by seizing the Massachusetts property of the proscribed Americans, of which there are 82. Some Virginians are in the black list. Manuscript intelligence from London 18 Feb^r from our most vigilant sensible

for fear ⁽¹³⁸⁾ that some Capt. Collins may be in waiting to intercept it. You may be assured that the plan of Ministry is fixed to compel immediate submission by force of arms, well knowing that if our Association has time to work, that their ruin is infallible.

God put us into the hands of better men and better times, which will surely be the case if we provide ourselves immediately with Arms & Ammunition, learn the discipline, behave like Men, and stick close, religiously close to the Association.

friend

Yours dear Sir Yth Affed^t
Richard Henry Lee

infamous ways, and by putting their Adversaries off their Guard. We propose sending a Pilot boat immediately for Gun Powder and she can bring the Richmond quantity if their Cash is quickly collected – But of this no mention should be made but to the most trusty and secret Gentlemen for fear that some Capt. Collins may be waiting to intercept it.³ You may be assured that the plan of Ministry is fixed to Compel immediate submission by force of Arms, well knowing that if our Association has time to work, that their ruin is infallible.

God put it into the hands of better men and better times, which will surely be the case if we provide ourselves immediately with Arms & Ammunition, learn the discipline, behave like Men and stick close, religiously close to the Association.

From dear Sir [&c.]

Richard Henry Lee

1. R. H. Lee, Papers, VHS.

2. John Murray, Lord Dunmore, Royal Governor of Virginia.

3. Captain Henry Collins of H.M.S. *Magdalen*, which had long been stationed in Hampton Roads.

JOHN HAWKESWORTH'S SHIPPING INVOICE TO STEPHEN COLLINS¹

Shipped by the Grace of God, in good Order and well Condition'd, by *John Hawksworth* in and upon the good *Brig* called the *John* whereof is Master, under God, for this present Voyage, *John Ashmead*² and now riding at Anchor in the *Carlisle Bay* and by God's Grace bound for *Philadelphia* to say *One hhd Rum on Accot & Risque of Stephen Collins Mercht there* being mark'd and number'd as in the Margin, and are to be delivered in the like good Order and well Condition'd, at the aforesaid Port of *Philadelphia* (the Danger of the Seas only excepted) unto *Sd Stephen Collins* or to *his* Assigns, he or they paying Freight for the said *Rum twenty Shillings* with Primage and Average accustom'd. In Witness whereof the Master or Purser of the said Ship hath affirm'd to 2 Bills of Lading, all of this Tenor and Date; the one of which 2 Bills being accomplish'd, the other *1* to stand void. And so God send the good Ship to her desir'd Port in Safety. *Amen.*
Dated in *Barbados April 24. 1775*

John Ashmead

1. Stephen Collins Accounts, vol. 12, LC. Printed form with handwritten insertions in italics.

2. Extract from the Voyages of Captain John Ashmead, typescript in HSP: "Made several voiajes [in the brig *John*] when the American Revolution war came on, and I was at Barbadoes at the time of the Battle of Lexington. That voiage I was almost too late, but fortunately got into our bay and in a fog passing the men of war without being seen, and the Brig was laid up when I got home. I had stopped at Antigua in my way home to collect money for the owner, but the Merchant would not or could not pay."

25 Apr.

STEPHEN HOOPER TO COATES & REYNELL, MERCHANTS OF PHILADELPHIA¹

Newbury Port April 25th 1775

Esteem'd Friends Reynell & Coates² My last to you, was of the 27th Ultimo p[er] Capt. [Samuel] Nowell, which suppose you have received, since which your much esteem'd of the 23 Ultimo has come to hand, with Bill of Loading of the particular Iron I wanted, & for which am much obliged. I imagine in this, you will be advis'd of our unhappy Situation in this Province, by which you will find, the improbability of Capt Nowells getting in here safe with his Cargoe of

Flour &c,³ which is much wanted with us, for I see nothing but Famine staring us in the Face, & unless kind Providence should alter the present Appearance of Things, we are an undone People; in Consequence of these Troubles, I have sent dispatches to Capt [William] Willcomb who may be momentarily expected to proceed to your Address, with his Cargoe of Molasses &c., & should he luckily Escape our Cruisers & arrive safe with you, please to dispose of his Cargoe for the most you can, & supply Capt Willcomb, with Money sufficient to pay off his People; & I should be obliged you will take out a Register in your Names, for said Vessell & improve her to the best Advantage for my Interest, keeping the N[e]t Proceeds of said Cargoe in your Hands untill further Order[s.] I should like to have her take freights to any Part of the Globe you may think best, & return to you again, & if she should be employ'd abroad, to advantage, & so continue until Times are settled in this Province, tho I think the further she is out of the Continent the better; ⁴ if he goes to Spain, pray get her a Pass; If she will obtain £700 sterling you may sell her if you think best – When she arrives please to direct your Letters to Henry Merchant Esqr in Newport, & pay the Postage in Philadelphia, as the Communication thro Boston is entirely stopped, so that no Letters in the common Way will come to hand

Your particular Attention to this Concern will greatly oblige your Friend

Stephen Hooper

Pray forward the enclosd

If Capt Willcomb inclines to go back to the West Indies for another Load of Mollasses, & you can procure Molasses Hhds & Heads, to Load him please to fill his hold with your Lumber, & between Decks with Flour in small sizd Barrells, & Money to the amount of 1500 Your Currency including the Cargoe on Board & [s]end him back to Guardaloop. I imagine he may make a good Voyage as Molasses will be cheap there – & 1500 Your Currency will be enough to Load him –

1. Feinstone Collection, DLAR.

2. The partnership was "Coates & Reynell" not "Reynell & Coates," as Hooper addressed them.

3. Captain Nowell, in the sloop *Mermaid*, from Piscataqua, entered the port of Philadelphia about April 15, 1775, and cleared for Portsmouth a week later. *Pennsylvania Packet*, April 17 and 24, 1775.

4. *Ibid.*, May 22 and June 12, 1775. Captain Willcomb, in the brig *Industry*, entered the port of Philadelphia about May 20, 1775, from Guadaloupe, and was cleared around June 10, for Falmouth, England.

Essex Gazette, TUESDAY, APRIL 18 TO 25, 1775

Salem, April 25.

Last Wednesday, the 19th of April, the Troops of His *Britannick* Majesty commenced Hostilities upon the People of this Province, attended with Circumstances of Cruelty not less brutal than what our venerable Ancestors received from the vilest Savages of the Wilderness. The Particulars relative to this interesting Event, by which we are involved in all the Horrors of a civil War, we have endeavoured to collect as well as the present confused State of Affairs will admit.

On Tuesday Evening a Detachment from the Army, consisting, it is said, of 8 or 900 Men, commanded by Lieut. Col. [Francis] Smith, embarked at the Bottom of the Common in Boston, on board a Number of Boats, and landed at

Phips's Farm, a little Way up Charles River, from whence they proceeded with Silence and Expedition, on their Way to Concord, about 18 Miles from Boston. The People were soon alarmed, and began to assemble, in several Towns, before Day-Light, in order to watch the Motion of the Troops. At Lexington, 6 Miles below Concord, a Company of Militia, of about 100 Men, mustered near the Meeting House; the Troops came in Sight of them just before Sun-rise; and running within a few Rods of them, the Commanding Officer accosted the Militia in Words to this effect: ———— "*Disperse you Rebels – Damn you, throw down your Arms and disperse:*" Upon which the Troops huzza'd, and immediately one or two Officers discharged their Pistols, which were instantaneously followed by the Firing of 4 or 5 of the Soldiers, and then there seemed to be a general Discharge from the whole Body. Eight of our Men were killed, and nine wounded. In a few Minutes after this Action the Enemy renewed their March for Concord; at which Place they destroyed several Carriages, Carriage Wheels, and about 20 Barrels of Flour, all belonging to the Province. Here about 150 Men going towards a Bridge, of which the Enemy were in Possession, the latter fired, and killed 2 of our Men, who then returned the Fire, and obliged the Enemy to retreat back to Lexington, where they met Lord [Hugh] Percy, with a large Reinforcement, with two Pieces of Cannon. The Enemy now having a Body of about 1800 Men, made a Halt, picked up many of their Dead, and took Care of their Wounded. At Menotomy, a few of our Men attacked a Party of twelve of the Enemy, (carrying Stores and Provisions to the Troops) killed one of them, wounded several, made the Rest Prisoners, and took Possession of all their Arms, Stores, Provisions, &c. without any Loss on our Side. – The Enemy having halted one or two Hours at Lexington, found it necessary to make a second Retreat, carrying with them many of their Dead and Wounded, who they put into Chaises and on Horses that they found standing in the Road. They continued their Retreat from Lexington to Charlestown with great Precipitation; and notwithstanding their Field Pieces, our People continued the Pursuit, firing at them till they got to Charlestown Neck, (which they reached a little after Sunset) over which the Enemy passed, proceeded up Bunker's Hill, and soon afterwards went into the Town, under the Protection of the *Somerset* Man of War of 64 Guns.

In Lexington the Enemy set Fire to Deacon Joseph Loring's House and Barn, Mrs. Mulliken's House and Shop, and Mr. Joshua Bond's House and Shop, which were all consumed. They also set Fire to several other Houses, but our People extinguished the Flames. They pillaged almost every House they passed by, breaking and destroying Doors, Windows, Glasses, &c. and carrying off Cloathing and other valuable Effects. It appeared to be their Design to burn and destroy all before them; and nothing but our vigorous Pursuit prevented their infernal Purposes from being put in Execution. But the savage Barbarity exercised upon the Bodies of our unfortunate Brethern who fell, is almost incredible: Not content with shooting down the unarmed, aged and infirm, they disregarded the Cries of the wounded, killing them without Mercy, and mangling their Bodies in the most shocking Manner.

We have the Pleasure to say, that, notwithstanding the highest Provocations given by the Enemy, not one instance of Cruelty, that we have heard of, was

committed by our victorious Militia; but, listening to the merciful Dictates of the Christian Religion, they "breathed higher Sentiments of Humanity."

The Consternation of the People of Charlestown, when our Enemies were entering the Town, is inexpressible; the Troops however behaved tolerably civil, and the People have since nearly all left the Town.

The following is a List of the Provincials who were killed and wounded.

KILLED. Messirs. *Robert Munroe, *Jonas Parker, *Samuel Hadley, *Jonathan Harrington, *Caleb Harrington, *Isaac Muzzy, *John Brown, John Raymond, Nathaniel Wyman, and Jedediah Munroe, of Lexington. ——— Messirs. Jason Russell, Jabez Wyman, and Jason Winthrop, of Menotomy. ——— Deacon Haynes, and Mr. ——— Reed, of Sudbury. ——— Capt. James Miles, of Concord. ——— Captain Jonathan Willson, of Bedford. ——— Capt. Davis, Mr. ——— Horsmer, and Mr. James Howard, of Acton. ——— *Mr. Azael Porter, and Mr. Daniel Thompson, of Woborn. ——— Mr. James Miller, and Capt. William Barber's Son, aged 14 of Charlestown. ——— Isaac Gardner, Esq; of Brookline. ——— Mr. John Hicks, of Cambridge. ——— Mr. Henry Putnam of Medford ——— Messrs. Abednego Ramsdell, Daniel Townsend, William Flint, and Thomas Hadley, of Lynn. ——— Messrs. Henry Jacobs, Samuel Cook, Ebenezer Goldthwait, George Southwick, Benjamin Daland, jun Jotham Webb, and Perley Putnam, of Danvers. ——— Mr. Benjamin Peirce, of Salem.

WOUNDED. Messirs. John Robbins, John Tidd, Solomon Peirce, Thomas Winship, Nathaniel Farmer, Joseph Commee, Ebenezer Munroe, Francis Brown, and Prince Easterbrooks (a Negro-Man) of Lexington. ——— Mr. ——— Hemmenway, of Framingham. ——— Mr. John Lane, of Bedford. ——— Mr. George Reed, and, Mr Jacob Bacon, of Woborn. ——— Mr. William Polly, of Medford. ——— Mr. Joshua Felt, and Mr. Timothy Munroe, of Lynn. ——— Mr. Nathan Putnam, and Mr. Dennis Wallis, of Danvers. ——— Mr. Nathaniel Cleaves, of Beverly.

Missing. Mr. Samuel Frost, and Mr. Seth Russell of Menotomy.

Those distinguished with this mark[*] were killed by the first Fire of the enemy.

We have seen an Account of the Loss of the Enemy, said to have come from an Officer of one of the Men of War; by which it appears that 63 of the Regulars, and 49 Marines were killed, and 103 of both wounded: In all 215. Lieut. Gould of the 4th Regiment, who is wounded, and Lieut. Potter of the Marines, and about twelve soldiers are Prisoners.

Mr. James Howard and one of the Regulars discharged their Pieces at the same Instant, and each killed the other.

Our late Brethern of Danvers who fell fighting for their Country, were interred, with great Solemnity and Respect, on Friday last.

The Public most sincerely sympathize with the Friends and Relations of our deceased Brethern, who gloriously sacrificed their Lives in fighting for the Liberties of their Country. By their nobel intrepid and Conduct in helping to defeat the Forces of an ungrateful Tyrant, they have endeared their Memories to the present Generation, who will transmit their Names to Posterity with the highest Honor.

We suppose a circumstantial Account will be prepared and published by Authority. The above is the best we have been able to obtain. We can only

add, that the Town of Boston is now invested by a vast Army of our brave Countrymen, who have flown to our Assistance from all Quarters.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Cambridge] April 25, 1775

Resolved, That Colonel [Nathaniel] Freeman, of Sandwich, be directed to take such a number of Men as may be sufficient for the purpose, and secure the Whale and such other Boats at Cape Cod, as may be of use to this Colony.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 745, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Tuesday, April 25 1775, Afternoon

A Letter from Salem [was] read, setting forth the expediency to the Depositions we are now taking to be forwarded as fast as possible, the same [was] ordered to be sent to the Committee for that purpose at Lexington, immediately.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO COMMANDERS OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS AT BOSTON ¹

By Samuel Graves Esqr Vice Admiral of the Blue &ca &ca

Permit Mr Samuel Pepper Master of the Schr *Polly* to carry out of this Place his Wife and three Children with their bedding and other Necessaries; taking up this Pass and returning it On board the Flag

Dated On board his Majesty's Ship *Preston* at Boston the 25th of April 1775

Sam¹ Graves

1. Winslow Papers, DAC.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

Boston 25th April 1775

I am Informed of Numbers of the Inhabitants getting out of Town, with Passes Signed by you, two of which I have seen. As it is of the greatest Consequence they should be kept in till the whole have leave to retire, and that it is regulated for the friends of Government to come in without Molestation, I am to beg the favour of you to grant no more passes for the present, without a Certificate of their having my leave—

I have Just received good Intelligence that the Rebels are carrying all the Boats, from Charles Town to Cambridge upon Trucks, and that three Trucks are now ready and more Collecting. I should therefore wish that the *Somersets* Boats were Immediately Employed to Seize all Boats that can be found, at or near Charles Town, and that they may be secured so that the Rebels may not be able to get them. You see what I have Often mentioned; that it is of the greatest Consequence to Seize all the Boats you can lay your hands on every where—

I have the honor to be &

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston 25 April 1775.

In answer to your Excellency's Letter of this Evening I have the Honor to acquaint You that a few passes have been granted by me to some known friends to Government, And to an inconsiderable number of transient people & fishing Vessels, but I shall very readily comply with your Excellency's desire not to permit any more to leave the Town, but such as produce to me Your Excellency's Certificate of leave.

Having four days ago issued the strictest orders to have every Scow Punt Canoe and Boats of all denominations collected to the Southward of the Long wharf and not to be taken from thence except by Your Excellency's directions or my own, I have every reason to believe these Orders have been punctually obeyed And that the Captains of His Majesty's Ships would not be so Neglectful at this Juncture as to suffer any boat to be afloat or near any place where there was the least probability of her falling into the hands of the Rebels – I shall notwithstanding order Captain [Edward] Le Cras to make a strict Search and Secure every Boat that can be found at or Near Charles Town.

Your Excellency May be assured, that I shall always Comply with every requisition you May have occasion to Make for the good of the King's Service and of my chearfully affording You all the Assistance in My power. I am Sir with great respect and regard Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

1. Gage Papers, CL.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, [TUESDAY],
April 25 [1775]” ¹

There are now two ships of war lying off here, the Captains of which threaten to fire on the town if a man goes out to the assistance of our most unhappy brethern at Boston.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, May 6, 1775.DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] Apr. 25 [1775]

Gov. [Samuel] Ward yesterday wrote a letter to Messrs. Malbones received today: advising the Merchants to get their Vessels to sea or out of New England with all speed: and recommending to the people at Newport to remove themselves and Effects speedily, as there was certain Danger of Immediate Seizure, in Consequence of Measures adopting by the Assembly. This has thrown the Town into great Consternation and Panic: and many are all day putting up their effects and preparing for removal. To heighten the Terror, the Men o' War give out that if Newport takes part with Providence and New England they will lay the Town in ashes. This day came here Mrs. Gordon from Roxbury removing to Philadelphia for safety – Mr. Gordon tarrying behind and determining to share the fate of War. There may 30 or 40 families remove, but they must leave 1500 behind.

1. Stiles, II, 40, LC.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT ¹

Sir/

New London April 25th 1775

Agreable to your Desire I have Sent up Eighty Three Barrels of Powder to Colo Jed. Huntington ² Containg about 108 Each the Remainder is in this Town I hourly Expect Thirty Two Barrels more that I have Account of the Capt having it on bord the Remainder of what Moneys was in My hands Capt [William] Packwood left with Capt Jno M'Shibbin who is in One of my Vessels in the West Indies to Lay out in the first Powder that Arives, he says that a large Quantity was Daly Expected he purchased all that Could be had and thought it best to push home with this Rather than Tarry Longer – this Quantity he Obtain'd through the Influence of the Famous Palunkey (who was An Old Commander of a Private Tear the Warr before Last[]) who Prevailed with the Governour of the Cape to take it out of the Kings Store – In Short Packwood Says the French Seem to be Disposed in the Islands to Assist in this way as Much as in their power, I Intend he Shall Sail Again for the Cape Next Week and I Don't Imagine he will be Gone More than Six weeks If you Intend to have any more Money Laid out in that way it will be a good Oppertunity Tomorrow by the Post I Expect to hear from Phila Relative to Lead I am Sir [&c.]

Nathan¹ Shaw Junr

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

2. Jedediah Huntington (1743–1818), Colonel of Connecticut Minute Men before Boston.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO PETER VANDERVOORT & CO., NEW YORK ¹

Dear Sir

New London April 25th 1775

The Bearer in the Sloop *Macaronia* has on Board fifty One Hogsheads and Eleven Terses of Mollasses and four hogsheads of Cocoa which Despose of for my Accot and hope Youl Save the Duty's in the Cocoa I have Drawn on you in favour of James Tilley for One Hundred & Eighty Pounds York Currancy & in Favour of Thomas Allen for Eighty Pounds York Currancy pay Twenty Days. I want Five Hundred wt of Powder, fifteen Hundred Flints and Eighteen Hundred weight of Lead and beg Youl be Careful in Shipping it in Some of the Small Boats. I Expect Capt [John] Chapman in with a Load of Melasses Very Soon which I shall Send Immediately Down without Unloading. I hope youl be Able to Send me four or five Hundred Pounds by [Peter] Rogers, and if there is Any Good Boards you may put as many On Board as he Can Conveniently Take and Six Cask of Ship Bread we have no further News from the Eastward only that there is Thirty Thousand Provential Troops in the Neighbourhood of Boston, the Communication between the Town & Country Intirely Stopd and I believe its our Intention to keep it so. I think its now high time that all the Tory Party should be Made to be Silent Our generall Assembly Setts Tomorrow and I pray God Almighty to Direct them to Adopt Such Measures as will be for the Interest of America. I Am [&c.]

Nath Shaw Junr

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

26 Apr.

"REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER"¹

April 1775 A M Fired a 9 Pounder shotted & brought too a Snow from
Wednesdy 26th the West Indies, Impressed 4 men from her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Cambridge] April 26, 1775.

On the twenty-fourth of April it was resolved that the inhabitants of Chelsea and Malden be, and hereby are absolutely forbidden to fire upon or otherwise injure any Seamen belonging to the Navy, under the command of Admiral [Samuel] Graves, unless fired upon by them, until the said inhabitants of Chelsea and Malden receive orders from this Committee, or the General of the Provincial Forces, so to do:

Resolved, That the Resolve of the twenty-fourth instant, respecting the inhabitants of Chelsea and Malden, be reconsidered, and ordered that it be immediately remanded; also,

Resolved, That the inhabitants of Chelsea and Malden be hereby desired to put themselves in the best state of defence, and exert the same in such manner, as, under their circumstances, their judgment may direct.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 746, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, April 26, 1775, 8 o'clock, A.M.

Ordered, That the Letter drawn by the Committee to send to Doctor [Benjamin] Franklin, as Agent, be copied and authenticated by the President *pro tempore*.

The Depositions taken by the Committee for that purpose, laid on the table, and ordered to be read.

Ordered, That the Committee make duplicates of the same, and Captain [Josiah] Stone, Jonas Dix, Esq; Colonel [John] Tyng, Colonel [Nathaniel] Dwight, Captain [Samuel] Whittemore, Major [Archelane] Fuller, and Mr. [Samuel] Freeman assist as scribes in that business.

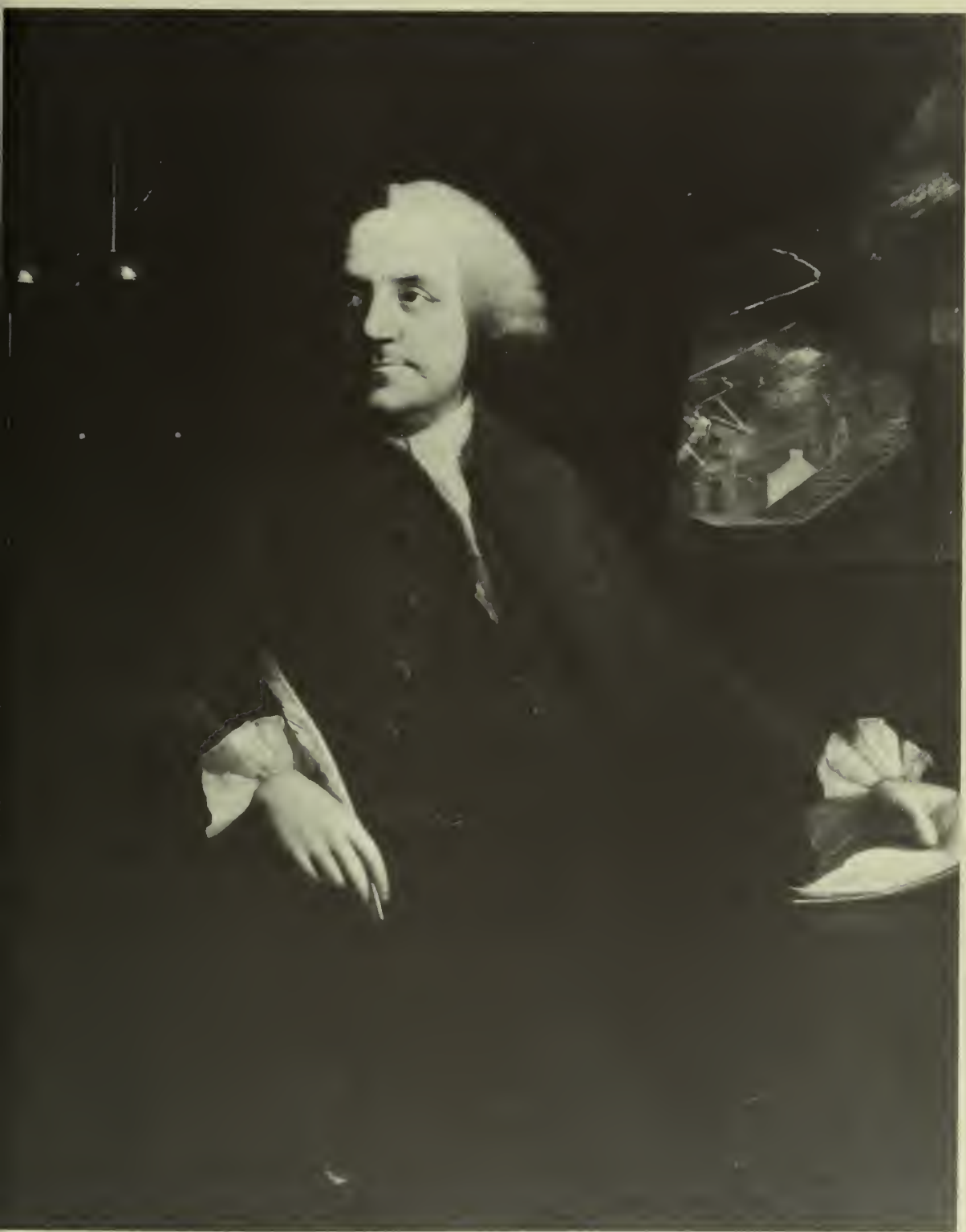
Afternoon

Ordered, That the copies of the Order to the Honourable Richard Derby, Esq; for fitting out his Vessel for a Packet, be taken and authenticated by the President *pro tempore*.

Ordered, That the honourable Richard Derby, Esqr's, Orders to the Treasury, be also authenticated by the President *pro tempore*.

Ordered, That the Committee of Supplies, directed to draught the Letter to our Agent in Great Britain, be requested to send the same with the papers now preparing for that purpose.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 769, 770, from Mass. Arch., vol. 31.



Benjamin Franklin. By Mason Chamberlin, 1762.

MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN¹

Sir,

In Provincial Congress, Watertown, April 26, 1775

From the entire Confidence we Repose in your faithfulness and Abilities, we consider it the happiness of this Colony, that the important trust of Agency for it, in this day of unequalled Distress, is devolved on your hands, and we doubt not, your Attachment to the Cause and liberties of Mankind, will make every possible Exertion in our behalf, a Pleasure to you; altho' our circumstances will compell us often to Interrupt your repose, by Matters that will surely give you Pain. A singular instance hereof is the Occasion of the present letter. The Contents of this Packet, will be our Apology for troubling you with it.

From these, you will see, how and by whom we are at last Plunged into the horrors of a most unnatural war.

Our enemies, we are told, have dispatched to G[reat] Britain a fallacious Account of the Tragedy they have begun; to present the operation of which, to the Publick Injury, we have engaged the Vessel that conveys this to you, as a Packet in the service of this Colony, and we Request your Assistance in supplying Captain [John] Derby, who commands her, with such Necessaries as he shall want, on the Credit of your Constituents in Massachusetts Bay.

But we most ardently wish, that the several papers herewith Inclosed may be immediately printed, and Disperced thro' every Town in England, and especially communicated to the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of the city of London, that they may take such Order thereon, as they may think Proper. And we are Confident your fidelity will make such improvement of them, as shall convince all, who are not determined to be in everlasting blindness, that it is the united efforts of both Englands, that may save either. But that whatever Price our Brethern in the one, may be pleased to put on their constitutional liberties, we are authorized to assure you, that the inhabitants of the other, with the Greatest Unanimity, are inflexibly resolved to sell theirs only at the Price of their lives.

Sign'd by order of the Provincial Congress

Joseph Warren, President, P.T.

[Endorsed] A true Copy from the original Minutes

Samuel Freeman, Secretary, P.T.

1. Papers of the Continental Congress, 65, I, 9, NA. Hereafter cited as Papers CC, NA. Because Franklin had returned to Philadelphia from London when this letter reached England, it was delivered to Arthur Lee.

VICE ADMIRAL GRAVES'S SECRETARY, G. GEFFERINA, TO CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS, R.N.¹

Sir

Preston [Boston] 26 April 1775

The Admiral having ordered a Boat with Fire Grapnels from the *Somerset*, *Boyne* and *Glasgow*, to be on board your Sloop by half after seven o'Clock this Evening, I have his Commands to acquaint you therewith and to signify his Direction that you do dispose of the said Boats during the Night in the most

effectual manner to prevent any Attempts of the Rebels either to destroy the Kings Ships, or to land on Boston side The Admiral hopes there will be the strictest Look out kept, and desires the Boats may at Day light be ordered on board their respective Ships. I am &c.

G. Gefferina

Nautilus Charles River

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 409, 410, MassHS Transcript.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] April. 26. [1775]

Two Vessels full of Passengers sailed this morning for Philadelphia.² The Town in great Panic – The Assembly proceed with Vigor, tho the Upper House hesitate – The Tories elated – Great Dejection on most countenances – but some revive their spirits. this afternoon the two Providence Packets loaded with 4 or 500 Bbs. flour here to-day, sailed for Providence, but were immediately stopt by the Man o' War Capt. [James] Wallace, who seized them, and intends to send them to Boston. They have dismissed all the people, except Mr. John Brown of Providence, whom they retain as a prisoner, in revenge as is supposed for his being concerned in Burning the *Gaspee* Schooner a year or two ago.³ There were great quantities of Goods in the Packets removing to Providence—

Just at night a Vessel from N York advises that the p[eo]ple at N York have risen and seized the Fort and turned out the Kings Troops, and took possession of it, last week on Thursday. What a wonderful Coincidence of the bursting forth of the public Spirit. The affair of Lexington on Wednesday – of New York on Thursday ⁴ – and by Friday an American Army of 20,000 men actually raised and assembled!

1. Stiles, II, 40, 41, LC.

2. The brig *Polly*, N. Coddington, and ship *Saunders*, C. Moore, were entered in at the Philadelphia Custom House from Rhode Island on May 15, 1775, *Pennsylvania Packet*, May 15, 1775.

3. Burned by a band of men from Providence on June 9, 1772; although the culprits were well known, they were never identified to the British authorities.

4. This is a slight exaggeration of what actually happened in New York on Sunday, April 23, 1775, upon the news of Lexington reaching that city. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, April 24, 1775.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*" ¹

April 1775

Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour

Wedsdy 26

Light breezes and Calm, P M Spoke a Schooner from No Carolina with Tarr Seiz'd the Sloops *Diana*, and *Abigal* with 300 Barrels of flour bound to Providence for the Rebel Army, sent an Officer and 10 Men on board the *Diana* ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

2. The journal makes no mention of the fact that Mr. John Brown, of Providence was seized on board one of the sloops. See Joseph Wanton to Gage, April 27, 1775.

CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU, R.N. TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Kingsfisher, New York, 26th April 1775.

Sir, As I understand all the Letters sent by the last Post for the Navy & Army were intercepted, have sent you herewith a duplicate of my last of the 23d. Instant.

The Major part of the People here are almost in a State of Rebellion, they have broke open the City Hall, and distributed the City Arms to the Mob, were it not for the Assistance I have given the Transports, make not the least doubt but they would have burnt them agreeable to their determination. – They have frequently formed Plans of distroying the King's Stores at Turtle Bay and up the North River, but with the Assistance of the Troops here, have always frustrated their designs. – I have taken the Powder onboard, out of the Store at Turtle Bay and the Arms & Powder out of the *Count[es]s Darlington* Transport, so that the Ship is now quite Lumbered up.

I am informed their next Plan, is to attack the *King's fisher*, be assured, I am prepared & hope to give them a warm reception. I am Sir [&c.]

James Montagu

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

WOOLSEY AND SALMON TO WILLIAM WILLCOCKS & Co., CORK ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 26 April 1775

We wish matters ware onct settled between G.B. & these Collenys but from the last accts we se[e] little prospect. No doubt if the difference Subsists much longer but what the Collonies will suffer severely. but at the same time we think England will feel it much more, as here the real Necessarys of life for the poor will come much lower than in England & if the Collonys should hold out & keep from fighting we think in the end it will make them more Industerous than the[y] have been & of Course less extravagant . . . [John] Smith in a brig ² is arrived here with Servants from yr – port the[y] answer well –

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Brig *James*, fifty tons burden, from Cork, in ballast and with sixty-seven servants, entered April 20, 1775, Port of Entry Books, 1745–75 MdHS.WILLIAM GRAYSON AND PHILIP RICHARD FRANCIS LEE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir,

Dumfries 26th Apl 1775

We have just recieved a letter from the Officers of the independant Company of Spotsylvania which I have herewith inclos'd; ² I immediately call'd together this Company and had the vote put whether they would march to Williamsburgh for the purposes mentioned in that letter which was carried unanimously.

I have nothing more to add but that We are well assured you may depend on them either for that or any other service which respects the liberties of America. We expect yr answer and determination by Mr. Daviss.

We have the honor to be [&c.]

By order of the Co

Will^m Grayson
Phil. R^d Fran^s Lee

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. See letter to Grayson, April 24, 1775.

27 Apr.

JEDEDIAH HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR.¹

Dear Sir –

Cambridge Thursday 27th April 1775

I came into this place through Roxbury last evening & find great numbers of troops or rather armed men in much more confusion than I expected, but perhaps with as little as possible in this disordered state of the Massachusetts; most of the soldiers here are inhabitants of this Province who are now enlisting in a regular manner – General [Artemus] Ward is at Roxbury – Genl [Israel] Putnam is commander in chief at this place – they have both of them too much business upon their hands – I wish our General officers as soon as appointed might immediately repair to Head Quarters; they will at this crisis of Provincial politicks be very cordially accepted & be of eminent service – The Committee of Safety who are the premium mobile in the military movements are crowded with business – It is expected by many that the inhabitants of Boston will have leave to come out this day with their effects, provided they leave their arms and provisions – It is said that Pork sold there yesterday for pistareen pr. lb, and milk for pistareen pr quart. many are suspicious that the General intends to deceive them till he gets possession of their arms – An experienced Engineer deserted to the Castle the 25th Inst Mr. Josiah Quincy is arrived from London in a very low state of health and not expected to live – The restraining Act is come by the same Ship – the reinforcements from England were not to sail till the middle of April – I will if possible inclose you a Salem paper – I expected to have seen brother Joseph by this time Your [&c.]

Jed Huntington

1. Trumbull Papers, Force Transcript, LC.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Cambridge] April 27, 1775

Resolved, That Captain [John] Derby be directed and he hereby is directed, to make for Dublin, or any good port in Ireland, and from thence to cross to Scotland or England, and hasten to London. This direction is, that so he may escape all cruisers that may be found in the chops of the Channel to stop the communicating of the Provincial Intelligence to the Agent.²

Ordered, That Colonel John Glover³ take such effectual methods for the prevention of Intelligence being carried on board the *Lively* ship-of-war, Captain [Thomas] Bishop, commander, now lying in the harbour of Marblehead, or any other as may have a tendency to injure the most important cause we are engaged in, and that he take such effectual methods for carrying this order into execution, as shall appear best calculated to effect this purpose.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

2. Derby, carrying the news of Lexington, did not follow instructions. In the interest of speed, he dared the Channel successfully.

3. John Glover (1732–97) was a Colonel of the Marblehead Regiment formed in January, 1775.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP, R.N.¹

[Extract]

Preston Boston 27 April 1775

Sir I have received your Letters April 22d and 24th The Vessels laden with Provisions and Naval Stores I could wish might come to Boston, but in doing this we must not (I find) use Compulsion, but endeavour (by making it their Interest) to entice them to supply us. I therefore desire that you will make it publick, that all Vessels who shall bring to Boston for sale live Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, Poultry, Pulse, Fruit, Grain, Flour, Oats, Hay, Vegetables, & other Necessaries of Life, shall have my Protection and be at Liberty to depart with their Vessels and Crew, whenever they have disposed of their Cargoes, and finding that detaining New England Property is not likely to answer our intended purpose, you may allow all Vessels to pass as you please. I have no objection to the Friends of Government and Women and Children removing where they like from any apprehended Danger, and therefore approve of what you have done on that head. The Fishing Vessels may also continue to navigate as usual and depart with their Merchantable Fish to Market, as I cannot at present authorize the detention either of their Persons or Effects.

I desire you will get the brig *Sukey*, Peleg Ewell Master, late from New Providence and now lying at Salem, from thence, and send somebody in her to see her safe to Boston; – giving the Officer Directions not to suffer any thing to go out of her without my written Order. In regard to your Situation you must act according to the best of your Judgment. I wish you to keep your Station as long as possible without risking the Ship. Whenever you are in danger move into a place of Safety without waiting for my particular Directions. The Tidesmen belonging to the Custom house are to have leave to go to Marblehead in the King's Schooner, and when there, if insulted by the Mob, or they are driven from the Shore, you are to receive them on board and victual them as your Ships Company.

I would have you be very diligent in causing all foreign Letters to be delivered to you upon the Arrival of any Ship from abroad, particularly from Europe, as they may contain Intelligence of Importance, the Letters to be packed up and sent to me.

I have nothing more to add at present, but to express my Confidence that upon any sudden Exigence you will act according to the best of your Judgement for the Safety of the King's Ships and People entrusted to your Care.

I am &c

Sam^l Graves*Lively* at Marblehead.

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 410–412, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GUY CARLETON, GOVERNOR OF CANADA, AT QUEBEC¹

Sir

Preston Boston 27th April 1775

As there is great Reason to expect the Rebels will continue to prevent all kinds of Provisions being brought to Boston in order to distress not only the friends of Government, but the Kings Forces; And as we have no Resources but in the

Provinces of Nova Scotia and Canada, I have written to Governor [Francis] Legge desiring his Assistance on this Exigency and I also intreat your Excellency to give Encouragement to the Exportation of live Cattle, Poultry, Roots and in general such Provisions as your Excellency well knows will be acceptable to a numerous body of People likely to be soon destitute of all Refreshments. Your Excellency will be so good to assure whoever bring provisions to this Market that they shall be allowed to return whenever they please and neither their Vessel or People detained upon any Account. I shall with great Pleasure render your Excellency any Services in my power and desire you will be assured that I am with the greatest Regard and Respect, Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 412, 413, MassHS Transcript.

STEPHEN HOPKINS TO PRESIDENT OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF
MASSACHUSETTS ¹

Sir, Providence April 27. 1775.

Yesterday Mr. John Brown, one of the principal Merchants of this Town, being at Newport, as an Agent for this Colony, appointed by the General Assembly to purchase Provisions, for the Use of this and your Government, was seized upon in a Freight or Packet Boat coming to Providence. He was carried and confined on Board a Man of War lying in Newport; and about 300 Barrels of Flour, in that Packet and another Freight Vessel, taken by the Ship of War. It is said the Captures are to be sent to Boston for Condemnation – We are greatly alarmed at this open Force and Hostility; and cannot but expect that the worst of Treatment will be offered to our Agent.

We have thought Proper to send you this Notice, to the End that you may detain all such of the King's Officers, or others in his immediate Service, as may be in your Hands, to answer and be accountable for the Conduct and Treatment, which may be had and acted to Mr Brown, and such as may be captured with him in the said two Vessels; and that you would on your Part in the common Cause do your utmost to make Reprisals of Persons to stand as Security in like Manner, not doubting but you will chearfully do those Things, which by the Laws of Nature and Nations are justifiable to be done to those, who put themselves in a State of War with others.

We are sorry to inform you that the first Struggle, which hath happened in our Colony, hath been unfavorable; an Event which could not have come to pass, but by the Faithlessness of some of the Members of our Assembly, who must have revealed their Proceedings, although the Oath of GOD was upon them to Secrecy.

Reprisal, recommended by the Continental Congress, and sanctified by the several Colonies, appears to be a good remedial Provision, and in this Instance highly necessary to be put in Practice; and we shall not fail ourselves to make Use of it at every Opportunity, and make the Life of every Crown Officer in our Power Security for the Safety of John Brown and those captured with him.

I am, Sir, for myself and in Behalf of all the true Friends of Freedom in this Colony [&c.]

Step Hopkins ²

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 80.

2. Stephen Hopkins (1707–85), Rhode Island merchant and politician.

“REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY’S SHIP *Rose*”¹

April 1775 Moor’d in Rhode Island Harbour
Thursday 27 P M sent the Sloop *Abigal* to Boston²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

2. John Brown was sent a prisoner in this sloop.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES¹

[Newport] Apr. 27 [1775].

This day at noon sailed the two Provid[enc]e packets seized yesterday, and in one of them Mr. Jno Brown is carried off for Boston, whither also they have sent the flour.

1. Stiles, II, 41, LC.

JOSEPH WANTON, GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND, TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE¹

Sir,

Newport, April 27th 1775

Yesterday, Capt. [James] Wallis [Wallace] of His Majesty’s Ship *Rose*, stationed in this Harbor, stopped a small Sloop, bound to Providence with a Quantity of Flour, consigned to Mr John Brown, Merchant in that Town, who was a Passenger on board said Sloop, with a regular Sufferance from the Custom House for the Flour; notwithstanding which, Capt. Wallis detained Mr Brown on board His Majesty’s Ship *Swan*, and contrary to my Request for his dismissal has sent him round to Boston, to the very great Distress of his Family and numerous Connexions – The Pretext Capt Wallis may have for so extraordinary a Proceeding, I am not acquainted with as he has not answered the letter I wrote him in behalf of Mr Brown; nor given me the least Information in that Matter, which renders it necessary I shou’d address your Excellency in behalf of this unfortunate injured Gentleman, and to assure you, that he is a Person of considerable Fortune, One of the largest Traders in the Colony, and universally esteemed; his detention, Sir, will also be attended with the most ruinous Consequences to his Business, he being Owner of a large Number of Vessels, many of which are hourly expected from different Voyages; Considering these Circumstances and the peculiarly hard fate of Mr. Brown, in being forced out of his Business, and sent such a Distance from Home, I hope your Excellency will excuse me, when I intreat you to exert your Influence in this Affair, that Mr Brown may, without too great loss of Time, be restored to his Family and Business – I have the Honor to be, with great Respect Your Excellency’s [&c.]

J Wanton

1. Gage Papers, CL.

SIMON PEASE TO NICHOLAS BROWN & Co.¹

Gentn

Newport April 27, 1775

I receivd yours thanking me for my endeavours for the Release of your Brother from on board the Man of Warr, When I heard of his Detention tho’ I had no very great intimacy with Capt [James] Wallace The thoughts of his Family & their Distressd Situation cou’d not but move every Person of the least Hu-

manity & on seeing him the Sympathising Tear trickled on my Cheek. I was from four oClock in the morning till 10 or 11 in Soliciting & taking every method to effect it but in vain, but I make no doubt of his Release when He comes to Boston and to effect this I gave him Letters to Lieut Govr [Thomas] Oliver, General [Thomas] Gages Secretary & Major [William] Sheriff & my Brother Winslow & desired their Interest & Endeavour in his Favour, I have now wrote to Mr [Thomas] Fluker & Mr [Richard] Lechmere which will be delivered you with this also to my Brother again & hope they will be effectual which would give me Satisfaction, I inclose you a Letter for your Brother which I took up since He went away.

We are much alarmed at our Critical Situation Here as we Know not what may take place. I am sending off what Merchandise I have by me & you will oblige me in Letting me Know if 6 or 7 Crates of yellow ware would sell at Providence as almost all Business is at a Stand Here I heartily desire a Settlement of this unhappy Dispute & soon or otherways our Trade will be I am afraid entirely ruined. Make my Compliments to Mess. Russells to whom I would have wrote if I had Time I am yrs

Simon Pease

If you have heard of the Familys' leaving Boston you'll much oblige me to inquire after Mr Peases Family & if any of them at Providence to let me know.

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE CITY AND LIBERTIES OF PHILADELPHIA ¹

[Philadelphia] Committee Chamber, April 27, 1775

Whereas the Continental Congress did resolve in the following words, viz: "And we further agree and associate, that we will have no trade, commerce, dealings, or intercourse, whatever with any colony or province in North America which shall not accede to, or which shall hereafter violate this Association, &c." ²

And whereas the Parliament of Great-Britain, in pursuance of their plan for subjugating and distressing the colonies, have passed a Bill for depriving our brethren in New-England of the benefit of fishing on their own coasts; Therefore,

Resolved, That all exportations from this city to Quebec, Nova-Scotia, Georgia and Newfoundland, or any parts of the fishing coasts or fishing islands, ought, in the opinion of this Committee, immediately to be suspended; and that it be accordingly recommended to every merchant immediately to suspend all Exportations to those places, until the Continental Congress shall give further orders therein.

By order of the Committee of the City and Liberties of Philadelphia.

Jonathan B. Smith, Secretary

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, May 3, 1775.

2. Continental Association, agreed to by the First Continental Congress, October 20, 1774.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

April 27th [1775] at a meeting extraordinary of the Com.

The Committee having just now received Intelligence that the Magazine of powder at Williamsburgh had been seized on Thursday the 20th Instant in the

night by Captn. [Henry] Collins commander of one of his Majestys Sloops of War and by the Governors directions was deposited on Board his Vessell, thought it adviseable to forward this Information to the Committee of Philadelphia which was Accordingly done immediately.

1. Balt. Com., LC.

PEYTON RANDOLPH, FOR THE CORPORATION OF WILLIAMSBURG, TO MANN PAGE, JR., LEWIS WILLIS AND BENJAMIN GRYMES, JR.¹

Gentlemen

Williamsburg the 27th April 1775

In compliance with your request we give you a candid Relation of the Disturbance which happend last Week in this City about the removal of the Powder from the Public Magazine. Early on Friday morning [April 21] the Inhabitants were universally and much alarmed at the Report that the Powder had been removed the preceding Night under an Escort of Marines and carried on board an Armed Vessel at Burwell's Ferry. The Common Hall assembled and presented the address which we presume you have seen with the Governors Answer. The Inhabitants were so much exasperated that they flew to their Arms; This incensed the Governor a good deal and from every thing we can learn was the principal Reason why his Answer was not more explicit and favourable. His Excellency has repeatedly assured several Respectable Gentlemen that his only motive in Removing the Powder was to secure it, as there had been an alarm from the County of Surry which at first seem'd too well founded, tho it afterwards proved Groundless; besides what he has said in his Public Answer, he has given private assurances to Several Gentlemen, that the Powder shall be Return'd to the Magazine, tho he has not condescended to fix the Day for its Return. So far as we can Judge from a Comparison of all Circumstances, The Governor considers his Honor as at Stake; he thinks that he acts for the best and will not be *compell'd* to what we have abundant Reason to believe he would Cheerfully do, were he left to himself – Frequent Messages have been sent from the Neighbouring Counties to enquire into the State of this unfortunate affair with the most friendly and Spirited offers of assistance and Protection. The City could not but hold themselves exceedingly obliged to those Gentlemen as they do to you Gentlemen, and the rest of our Worthy Country Men, by whom we understand you are sent, We hope that you and the other Gentlemen can have no doubt of our paying the utmost attention to the Country's Interest as well as our own Security in particular. If We then may be permitted to advise, it is our opinion and most earnest request that Matters may be quieted for the present at least; we are firmly persuaded that perfect Tranquility will be Speedily Restored; by pursuing this Course we foresee no Hazard or even inconvenience that can ensue; whereas we are apprehensive, and this we think upon good Grounds that violent measures may produce effects, which God only knows the consequence of.

We beg that our thanks and best Wishes may be presented to the several Gentlemen of this Country who have interested themselves in our Behalf and are Gen: [&c.]

Peyton Randolph for self and the
Corporation of the City of Williamsburg

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

CIRCULAR LETTER FROM THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO THE COMMITTEES IN THE SEVERAL DISTRICTS AND PARISHES OF THE PROVINCE ¹

[Extract]

Charlestown, April 27, 1775

Gentlemen, The General Committee thinking it of the highest Importance that the Committees in the interior Parts of the Colony, and that, through them, the People at large, should from Time to Time be informed of all such Affairs and Transactions as have any Relation to the American Cause; they have for the Management of so necessary a Service nominated a Committee of Intelligence.

We are very sorry that at our entering upon that Service we are to announce to you that there is but little Probability of deciding the present unhappy Public Disputes, by the pacific Measures we have hitherto pursued. However, even this Circumstance, we hope, will be of Service to our Cause; for we have no Doubt, but that the Ministry having thus turned a deaf Ear to the Complaints of the Colonies, these will be confirmed in their Resolution to complain in a louder Tone, and be ANIMATED to meet those Difficulties and Dangers they can now no longer avoid, with Honour to themselves, and Safety to their Liberties.

On the 9th of *February* the two Houses of Parliament addressed the King. In Substance, they declared to His Majesty that *America* was in a State of actual Rebellion; they desired the King, by all possible Means, to enforce the late Acts of Parliament against *America*; and they assured him that in such a Measure they would support him with their Lives and Fortunes. The King acquiesced, and some Days after desired from Parliament an Addition to his military Forces – it was granted without Hesitation. In consequence of these Measures, Reinforcements of Troops and Ships are ordered to *Boston*; where, when they shall be arrived, General [Thomas] Gage may have under his Command about 10,000 Men. *But what are 10,000 Men against THE UNITED POWERS OF AMERICA!*

Amidst this Gloom, some Rays of Light break in, and cheer us in this Extremity of Affairs. The City of London has declared in our Favour; in a few Hours, some of her Mercants subscribed 26,000 l. Sterling for the Relief of *America*, and public Subscriptions for the same Purpose are industriously promoted. *London*, and other considerable Towns, have petitioned Parliament, and continue to exert themselves vigorously in our Behalf. The most illustrious Noblemen, and the most eloquent Orators, are loud in our Defence.

1. Fries, ed., *Moravians in North Carolina*, II, 930, 931.

CIRCULAR LETTER FROM THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO THE COMMITTEES IN THE SEVERAL DISTRICTS AND PARISHES OF THE PROVINCE ¹

[Extract]

Charlestown, April 27, 1775

On the 8th of *March* a Bill passed the House of Commons, *restraining* the Provinces of *Massachusetts Bay*, *New Hampshire*, *Connecticut*, and *Rhode Island*, from fishing on the Banks of *Newfoundland*; and *from exporting to any Part of the World*, but to "*Great-Britain*, or some of the *British Islands* in the *West Indies*." Thus, as these four Provinces have by the *American Association* contracted not to export to *those* Places, THEIR EXPORTS ARE TOTALLY

STOPPED. And the Act further says, *that into those Provinces shall NOT be imported* any "Sort of Wines, Salt, or *any Goods or Commodities whatsoever* (except Horses, Victual, and Linen Cloth, the Produce and Manufacture of *Ireland*, and Goods for the victualling of his Majesty's Ships, and for his Majesty's Forces and Garrisons, or the Produce of the *British Islands in the West Indies*) *upon any Pretence whatsoever*, unless such Goods be shipped in *Great-Britain*, and carried directly from thence." Thus, as those Provinces are bound by the Association *not to import FROM Great Britain, Ireland, or the West Indies*, it is evident that *their IMPORTATION in the Way of Trade is TOTALLY PREVENTED*. If the Blockade of *Boston alone* ROUSED the whole Continent to their Rescue and Support, HOW VIGOROUSLY ought we to exert ourselves, NOW that *four entire Provinces* are blockaded by an Act of Parliament, and CUT OFF FROM ALL MANNER OF TRADE! And, Gentlemen, remember, *this violent Measure* has been executed SINCE the Introduction of Lord North's conciliatory Motion.

This arbitrary Conduct on the other Side of the Water has driven the People of this Capital, and the neighbouring Country, TO DESPAIR of a *Redress of American Grievances*, without an EFFUSION of AMERICAN BLOOD – OF THIS they are virtuously willing to contribute their Quota, and even *more* than their Proportion, to procure *this invaluable Relief*. These Advices arrived on the 14th and 19th Days of this Month; and on the Night of *the 21st Inst.* the Public Armory and Magazines were opened, and a considerable Quantity of Arms and Ammunition were taken, without Doubt, for the Ends for which they were originally procured – THE PUBLIC SAFETY.

Last *Wednesday*, the 26th Instant, the General Committee passed a Vote, that the Provincial Congress be summoned to meet in *Charlestown* on *Tuesday* the 20th Day of *June*. We make no Doubt but that you will exert yourselves to give a general Notification of it, that the Congress may be as full as possible, as it is expected Affairs of the HIGHEST Importance will be the Subject of Deliberation.

1. Fries, ed., *Moravians in North Carolina*, II, 935, 936.

28 Apr.

JOSHUA WENTWORTH TO MESSRS. SMITH & ATKINSON, BOSTON ¹

Gentlmn

Portsmouth April 28, 1775

Your fav. of 24th Inst I recd duly, & observe the Contents – The late unhappy Event, has put by all business for the present. Your order to Charter or purchase a Vessel is Impracticable here – Therefore decline an attempt – A Vessel cou'd not be man'd, with the greatest assurances for the seamans safety from an impress, nor is it possible to procure a Master & men for the purpose of taking any Familys from Boston by Water, as the people are Convinc'd none can go off with their Effects in that way, but such as have Immediate Interest or Connections with the Power that prohibits a free Intercourse – The Alarm given by the Troops Cruel Proceedings Annimates with double Fire – God only Knows the Event – I

heartily wish some Concilliratory measures might be adoptd before its too late to save both Countrys –

I will exert myself to Collect your debts here – No doubt ere this you have seen Cap. Cartwright his people that were of this Town, are got home & inform me the *Betsey* was cast away on their Passage to Georgia. – Cap. Turner arrived yesterday from Granada by him I am inform'd Bettenham is at Grenviel Bay that Mr Scoot wou'd not take him up havg taken Umbrage at your Letter by that Vessel – no doubt you are Particularly advised by Cap. Bettenham Roberts was at Granada cou'd not do any thing there & Cap. Turner tells me proceeded to Jamaica – Greno has not been at that Island. Therefore I conclude he stopt at Nevis where he expected to Load – Mr Rose writes me of 3d Fey that he shou'd Load Follet – I am sorry to hear the low Sale of Dowees Cargo – You desire me not drawg any further – I must to make up the Sum of £200 last mentd to you, if it were possible to sel effects or Collect any of your debts I shou'd not need to call on you, at present – but that is impossible at present

I sincerely Condole the unhappy situation of the Inhabitants of Boston I hope they will soon be Relieved, as the Post informs the General has promis'd to suffer the People & Effects to move out of Town soon as the Arms of the Inhabitants are delivered up – My Respectful Compliments as due Concludes me Gentlmn [&c.]

Josh. Wentworth

1. Atkinson Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

In Provincial Congress Watertown 28th April 1775

Whereas a worthy Friend to the Liberties of America, Mr John Brown of Providence hath been lately seized, & with two other persons carried on board a British Ship of War at Newport.

Ordered, That Samuel Murray & such officers of Gen [Thomas] Gages Army as are now prisoners of War & not disabled from travelling on account of their Wounds be immediately sent under a Sufficient guard to Providence & delivered to the Hon: Stephen Hopkins Esqr or other Friends of said Mr Brown; to be made such Use of as they shall think proper for obtaining the liberty of the said Mr Brown.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS TO STEPHEN HOPKINS ¹

In provincial Congress Water Town April 28th 1775.

It [is] with the deepest Concern that We find Mr [John] Browne, that devoted Friend to the Cause of America, betrayed into the Hands of our common Enemies & every Measure for his Release that can be pursued by us shall most earnestly be adopted

We have ordered Samuel Murray son of the Mandamus Counciller & such officers of General [Thomas] Gages Army as are prisoners of War & not disabled

from travelling to be immediately sent under sufficient Guards to providence, & think it best that Murray & the Officers should write to their Friends in Boston acquaintg them that Mr Brown's Friends have the same Advantage over these as General Gage hath over Mr Browne—

We beg leave to suggest to You the critical Situation of the Colony at the present Time which disables this Congress from immediately seizing every Crown Officer in the Government – Boston is closed & the Numerous Inhabitants so obnoxious to our Enemies are imprisoned therein – several of our Seaports are blocked with Ships & threatned Destruction if they joyn the Army – under this Situation the Inhabitants of these Places most in Danger are Day & Night removing their Furniture & Effects & We hope soon to see it generally done – should We therefore seize the Crown officers as proposed it may hurl on our Numerous Seaports sudden Destruction before they have had opportunity of saving themselves.

We had it in Contemplation to send a Letter to the General acquainting him that We should treat the Crown Officers with Severity if Mr Browne should be so treated by him, but We are apprehensive it would rather produce an unhappy than good Effect as he has greater Number of our valuable Friends than We can shew of his – We desire you to give us your further Sentiments on the Matter & if any Way is left wherein the Congress can serve Mr Browne it shall be readily pursued

We are &

[Endorsed] Afternoon, April 28, 1775

The Committee appointed in the Forenoon to take into consideration a Letter received from the Honourable Stephen Hopkins Esq reported

The Report was accepted, and ordered to lie on the table for the present.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 86.

STEPHEN HOPKINS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen,

Providence April 28 1775.

Mr Joseph Brown, and Mr Moses Brown of this Place, principal Merchants, and Gentlemen of Distinction and Probity, will wait upon you with this Letter – Their Brother Mr. John Brown of this Town Merchant, was two Days ago forcibly taken at Newport in a Packet, as he was coming from thence with a Quantity of Flour, which he had purchased there. He was carried on Board a Ship of War and confined, and we have since heard, that he is sent round to Boston with the Flour.

I request you to give to the Bearers any Aid and Assistance in Your Power, for procuring the Relief and Discharge of their Brother – In my Letter of yesterday to the Congress, the Measure of Reprisal in this Instance was recommended, and if it may be, I wish it may be pursued.

I am your Friend [&c.]

Step Hopkins

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 82.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT, TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Hartford April 28th 1775

The alarming situation of public affairs in this country, & the late unfortunate transactions in the Province of the Massatts Bay, have induced the General Assembly of this Colony, now sitting in this place to appoint a Committee of their body to wait upon your Excellency to desire me, in their name to write to you relative to these very interesting matters –

The inhabitants of this Colony are intimately connected with the people of your Province and esteem themselves bound by the strongest ties of friendship, as well as of common interest, to regard with attention whatever concerns them. You will not therefore be surprized that your first arrival at Boston with a body of His Majesty's troops for the declared purpose of carrying into execution certain Acts of Parliament, which in their apprehension were unconstitutional and oppressive should have given the good people of this Colony, a very just and general alarm.

Your subsequent proceedings in fortifying the town of Boston & other military preparations greatly encreased their apprehensions for the safety of their friends and brethern – They could not be unconcerned spectators of their sufferings in that which they esteemed the common cause of this country, but the late hostile and secret inroads of some of the troops under your command into the heart of the country and the violences they have committed, have driven them almost into a state of desperation – They feel now, not only for their friends, but for themselves and their dearest interests and connections – We wish not to exaggerate; we are not sure of every part of our information, but by the best intelligence that we have yet been able to obtain the late transaction was a most unprovoked attack upon the lives and property of His Majesty's subjects, and it is represented to us, that such outrages have been committed as would be a disgrace even to barbarians; much more to Britons, so highly famed for humanity as well as bravery – It is feared therefore that we are devoted to destruction and that you have it in command and intention to ravage and desolate the country – If this is not the case, permit us to ask why have these outrages been committed? Why is the town of Boston now shut up & to what end are all these hostile preparations that are daily making & why do we continually hear of fresh destinations of troops for this country? The people of this Colony, you may rely upon it abhor the idea of taking arms against the troops of their sovereign and dread nothing so much as the horrors of civil war; but at the same time we beg leave to assure your Excellency that as they apprehend themselves justified by the principle of self-defence they are most firmly resolved to defend their rights and privileges to the last extremity; nor will they be restrained from giving aid to their brethern if any unjustifiable attack is made upon them – Be so good therefore as to explain yourself upon this most important subject as far as it is consistent with your duty to our common Sovereign – Is there no way to prevent this unhappy dispute from

coming to extremeties? Is there no alternative but absolute submission or the desolations of War? By that humanity which constitutes so aimable a part of your character as well as for the honour of your Sovereign and by the Glory of the British Empire we entreat you will prevent it if it be possible – Surely it is to be hoped that the temperate wisdom of the Empire might even yet find expedients to restore peace, that so all parts of the Empire may enjoy their particular rights honours and immunities. Certainly it is an event most devoutly to be wished for – And will it not be consistent with your duty to suspend the operations of war on your part, and enable us on ours to quiet the minds of the people at least until the result of some further deliberations may be known? The importance of the occasion will we doubt not sufficiently apologize for the earnestness with which we address you, and any seeming impropriety which may attend it, as well as induce you to give us the most explicit and favourable answer in your power—

I am with great esteem and respect in behalf of the Genl Assembly Sir [&c.] ²

1. Trumbull Papers, Force Transcript, LC. Jonathan Trumbull (1710–85) had been Governor of Connecticut since 1769.
2. This letter and Gage's reply of May 3, which was well received in England, were published together in *The Gentlemen's Magazine*, London, June 1775. Most public communications of importance and many private letters appeared in the periodicals.

PETER VANDERVOORT TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

New York April 28. 1775 11 OClock at Night –

My Dear Sir In great haste I wrote you but a very few lines by [Edward] Chappell this day in Answer to all your letters, wch I beg you will Excuse, for our City has been in Such Tumult & confusion ever since Sunday last that Scarcely any Business has been done, and every day we have had People Marching booth day & Night through the Streets with Arms & they are Exercising & Entering into Companies every day – there has been no Such thing as Collecg mony since the News from Boston, as most Refuse to pay & hope your People will have a Little Patience with me & I beg you will advise all my friends, that they Send nothg down here Just now, for their Interest is Saifer in their own hands, than here. I am Determind to sell nothing but for Cash in hand now & most People be of the same Mind & I want much to git my family & Effects from this place for from what we can learn this Place is to be the Seat of War in America and we have Reason to Expect the Troops booth from England & Boston will make their head Quarters here & many are Sending out their families & Packing up their goods to Send them off – yesterday a very great Number of People (some suppose about 300 with arms) met in the Common from whence they Proceeded to our Collector about two Miles out of Town to Request he would Clear no Vessells with Provision or Lumber, but his Oath would not admit his Consenting (he being obliged to Clear all Vessells that Properly Applyed) from wch they went to the Custom house & obtained the Keys, so that no Vessell can Just now be Cleared or Enterd wch Seem to me to be a hardship, for all Vessells in Ballast ought to be Cleared out & all Vessells not Contrary to Congress ought to be admitted to Entry – but hope in a few days all will be put Right – this City is now in as much Confusion, as if we Expected an Attack from a foreign Enemy –

This day a great Number of Cannon is Removed from this Town to Kingsbridge & Expect a great Number will go tomorrow as also powder & Ball – the People begin to Unite & those we deemed Tories before now come out hearty in the Cause, and I Judge some out of fear – the Western Provinces are heartily United, as is North Carolina in a Particular Manner – our Cause is good & if we be only serious, we shall Baffle all the Designs of the Ministry –

our Cause of Liberty gains fast here & if no Troops Come for one month, we shall be better United than any Province, a Provintial Congress is Called to Meet here the 22d of Next Month, as also in Jersey the 15th & Expect they will Unite – the Ministry Mean to Push hard against us, but when they come to have True Accots in England from Boston & this, make no doubt the Populace will Oblige them to desist their operation

the Jersey People have sent Word they will come to our assistance when Called for, & Many People from your Province are now on their March to Kingsbridge – I am [&c.]

Peter Vandervoort

P S. I beg you will Caution all to send nothing down here untill We know how Matters are like to go with us

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore 28 April, 1775]

. . . was our troubles settled I would not make the least doubt of our getting business Enough. but troubles sams to Come Heavyer for the troops & people in N. England have had an Engagement in which we think the troops are worsted the best acct we have yet here I now Inclose you but have not mentiond it to any person on yr side but yr self.² how matters will now end God knows. but as trade is likely to be stopped I would advise you to remain where you are untill I write otherwise Unless you wd chuse to Come out here to take up arms which we are all doing but should the affairs be settled soon it must be to our advantage Hereafter your remaining where you are as I have no doubt of yr living at as chape a rate as possible & you may be assured I will do the same . . . the Schooner is now here ³ & I hope to have her Loaded in Eight days with Boat boards Staves & 100 bbls flour for Dublin. I have wrote to G[eorge] D[arley] to Insure the Hull in England as Cash is Scarce with me I shall Insure the Cargo Here. I suppose the Hull is worth 250£ Sterl & I would advise her to be sold with you if it Could be done to advantage. . . . when I get the Schooner Away I am afraid I shall be obligd to draw on G.D. for 100£ Sterl but shall not do it if I can help it. . . . in the present Distracted situation of affairs to the N.ward & the little prospect of their being settled I wonder how I got myself to write so much as I have done but be matters as they will I am always yr assured Friend

Ge^o Woolsey

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. The battle of Lexington and Concord.

3. The schooner *Industry*, William Woolsey, master, entered from Antigua on April 18, with a cargo of twenty hogsheads and one tierce of rum, two tierces and three barrels of sugar, 2000 pounds of brown sugar and 1850 gallons of rum. Port of Entry Books, 1745–75, MdHS.

ROBERT EDEN, GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND, TO HIS BROTHER WILLIAM EDEN ¹

[Extract]

Annapolis, 28th April 1775.

You must not be angry with me for (at this Time) being apparently negligent in my Intelligence to Lord Dartmouth, for it is impossible to give any positive Intelligence or Information on Affairs here. We are at this Time, as You will judge by the inclosed, in a State of thorough Confusion. I had set apart Wednesday, Yesterday, and this Day (Friday) for writing fully on the Affairs of this Country, which I would not do sooner, from some *well grounded* Hopes I had of seeing a total Change here, on what I remarked, at our receiving the Intelligence of your preparing the Armament against America; which, if it did not immediately cause an Alteration among the Sentiments, did in the Avowals of our staunchest Patriots, and gave me great Room to hope *we* should return into a Channel of regular Submission to the Laws of Great Britain. When lo! on Wednesday at 1 P. M, the inclosed No 1 appeared.² – I openly disavowed every Probability of Truth in the Account; but the Alarm you may easily conceive not to be small here.

In the Afternoon I was waited on by six Gentlemen of respectable Characters, requesting me, that as, in Consequence of this News, they were under great Apprehensions of some Attempt being made by the Servants or Slaves for their Liberty, they hoped I would commit the Custody of the Arms and Ammunition to the Freemen of the Country, for that otherwise they would not answer for Consequences from an Insurrection. I expostulated with them, advised them – and tried to convince them they were only going to accelerate the Evil they dreaded from their Servants and Slaves – In vain, however, altho' I agreed, by the Advice of the Council, to commit the Care of the Arms to the Custody of such Gentlemen of the Militia (*regularly* appointed by myself) as they must place Confidence in. They expressed great Satisfaction with this; but the next Day (Yesterday) applied to me, under the Militia Act of this Province, for Arms, for the Purposes above-mentioned. – and, by Advice of the Council, then sitting at my House, I agreed to furnish four Counties (whose Colonels made a regular Application) with Arms &c., *such as they are*; and perhaps each County (of those four) will get 100 Stand, which their Colonels give Receipts for, and are to share with the Counties that have not had Time to apply. I thought this a better Mode of proceeding, than refusing, as the Event shews: For, altho' last Night, they took away the Powder (which has been here 20 years, and is useless) except five Barrels of mine in the Magazine, they were last Night, and this Morning, prohibited by *Capt. Hyde's* Company, belonging to this City, from taking the Arms; who, to shew the Strangeness of *our* Conduct, had, on Wednesday, paraded to assist them in taking them away should I have refused to grant them; a Dilemma this, that puzzled them! And Hyde's Company have so far succeeded (the others cool and unconcerned Spectators, in Scarlet, lined with Buff) as to claim, and take, this Afternoon, their proportion of the Arms &c except Powder. This must, I suppose, mortify the Convention, some of whom think that I have engaged to support that Company with the Friends I can rely on, and with whom I defeated some former Combinations.

You need be under no Uneasiness about me: I am well supported, and not obnoxious to any unless it be to some of our infernal Independents, who are in League with the Bostonians.

Writing in such a Hurry, and so straitened for Time, I forgot to say that, about ten this Morning, No 2, or rather the Original of it, came to Town; but I cannot, (tho' alarmed on hearing it with many added Circumstances) gave Credit to it. It comes thro' an *independent* Channel, and I rather think it intended to draw in the other Colonies, that they may share in the Punishment of the Bostonians, or, by being entitled to it, mitigate it. In this Province, there are very many, I really believe a Majority of Friends to Government; and *we* have talked *American* Treason openly in this Town for some Time. I will write more fully by a safe Conveyance, the *Sophia*, on Monday or Tuesday: You must see I have no Time now. I hourly expect an Uproar of some Sort or another, but am calm enough, considering I am not endowed with Patience.

I will just add, on behalf of the Gentlemen from the several Counties, who instructed the others in the Application made to me, that their^s Behaviour was exceedingly respectful, much more so than I expected considering the Intelligence from the Northward they had received and credited.

I must trust to You for making proper Excuses to Lord Dartmouth for my not writing. I could not do it, without detaining the Mail, which would give an Alarm, enough of which we have already. You will please to communicate all, or as much of this as is necessary, with proper Apologies. His Majesty has not a Governor on this Continent, who would more freely expose both his Fortune and his Life in His Service than I would. That is well known here, and contributes not a little to keep the dissolute in order: and I have a few faithful and resolute Adherents, whom I can trust to on an Emergency.

You will probably hear fully from me by Richardson's Ship, before You get this:—I will then write to Lord Dartmouth. Please to present my most respectful Compliments to His Lordship.

You will have heard of Lord Dunmore's having removed the Powder from Williamsburg. We have no King's Ship here, should I have thought such a step to be expedient, had our Powder been worth removing. I hear the Northern Neck Militia (Lord Fairfax's) are on their March, as Light Horse, to Williamsburg. Adieu, I hear Musquetry, exercising only I hope, for they fire regularly in Platoons.

1. MdHS Transcript from PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5.

2. The first account of the battles of Lexington and Concord.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1775

Williamsburg, April 28.

By some Gentlemen who came passengers with Captain Miller, we learn . . . That Lord William Campbell is appointed Governour of South Carolina, and was at Portsmouth ready to sail for his government.

The *Mary*, Miller, from London, and *Tom*, Clark, from Liverpool, are arrived in York river; the *Jenny*, Welch, *Molly*, Collins, and *Sparling*, Priestman, from Liverpool, at Norfolk.

His Majesty's ship *Fowey*, Capt. [George] Montagu[e], came round last Sunday [April 23] to York, from Hampton road.

29 Apr.

COLONEL SAMUEL THOMPSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

I this minut have an oportunity to Informe you of the State of our affairs at the Eastward that we are all Stantch for Countrey Except three men and one of them is Deserted the other two is in Iorns – as for the vessels which attemptd to Carrey Stuff to our enemies are stopt and I am about to move about Two hundred of white pine masts and other stuff got for our Enemies use Sir having heard of the Cruel murders they have dun in our Province makes me more Resolute than ever and finding that the Sword is drawn first on their side that we shall be annimated with that noble spirit that wise men ought to be untill our Just Rights and Libertys are secured to us Sr my heart is with every tru Son of America tho my Person can be in but one place at once, tho verely Soone I hope to be with you on the spot if any of my Friends enquier after Me Informe them that I make it my whole business to pursue those measures Recommended by the Congress. We being uppon the Sea Coast am in danger of being invaded by Pirates as on the 27th of inst there was a boat or barge Came in to our harbour and River and sounding as they went up the River – Sir as powder and gunes is much wanted in the Eastern Parts and allso Provisions Pray Sir have you thoughts Something on this matter against I arrive which will be as soone as business will admit Sir I am with the greatest Regard to the Countrey at heart your Ready friend [&c.]

Samuel Thompson

Brunswick April the 29th 1775

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 98.

LIEUTENANT HENRY MOWAT, R.N., TO EDWARD PARRY ¹

Sir—

Canceaux Falmouth April 29 1775

I am just this moment informed that you are interrupted in your occupation by the misled people of the Place where you are; I therefore think it incumbent on me as a Servant under the Crown, to warn those Infatuated people of the Consequences that will issue from the detaining, or interfering with you, or any other of his Majesties Loyal subjects in their lawful avocations, & I do by the same Authority authorize you to make known to me, without loss of time your present Situation, & the Names of those that have presumed to molest you. Should a Reply to this Letter not appear by the time that I have a Right to expect it, I Shall Naturally Suppose that it has been interrupted, & you may depend, as soon as I know that to be the case, that Assistance Shall soon release you, or any other Subject whose treatment may furnish me with a just cause of Complaint. My best Compliments to Mr Barnard I hope he is not in the same predicament with yourself please to acquaint him that I Received his Letter, & that I have been

in hourly expectations of Seeing him for Some days past I also hope to have the Pleasure of Seeing you very Soon. I am Sir

Your most Obedient Humble Servant

H: Mowat

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 27.

FALMOUTH CUSTOMS OFFICERS TO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CUSTOMS ¹

Honorable Sirs For some Months past we have persevered in our Duty notwithstanding many Threats, & Insults from the Lawless Sons of Violence but lately being well assured of a concerted Plan to confine us and then to lay at their Mercy, it behoved us with other Friends to the British Constitution to take refuge onboard His Majesty's Ship *Canceaux* on the 24th Instant, where we continued till the 26th refusing to enter or clear Vessels, unless it might be done, without Molestation at the Custom House, and Security promised us from the Select Men. This Step together with a Letter from Captain [Henry] Mowat firmly demanded Protection for all Friends to Government, has produced a Letter to him and another to us assuring Safety in our Business and to our Families, but this we depend on no longer than a King's Ship is in the Harbour. We therefore humbly beg leave to say that as Capt. Mowat from his present Orders will soon depart, We may not continue here, but at the risque of losing the Custom House Books, & Effects as well as our Lives. – To prevent these impending Evils permit us to to intreat your Honors Interest with the Commanders of His Majesty's Fleet & Army, to grant us in this our distressed and dangerous Situation such Protection as they in their Wisdom shall think proper. We are Honorable Sirs [&c.]

G: Lyde, Collr. & Secy
Jos. Demell D Comp^t

Custom House, Falmouth April 29, 1775

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

JOSHUA WENTWORTH TO SMITH & ATKINSON, BOSTON MERCHANTS ¹

Gentmn

[Portsmouth] April 29, 1775 –

Since writg the preceedg. a Vessel is arrived from Totola by whom recd the Inclos'd letter from Cap Roberts of the Ship *Lucretia*, who is gone to Jamaica –

The Master of the Vessel (arrived here) tells me Capt Roberts inform'd him Grino had got a freight at Antigua. I have again talk'd with Cap. Turner, he sais Bettenham sold for £4.10/ – at Grenviel Bay – wch is equal to £5.0/ – at St Georges in the same Island, as you do not pay any freight of Sugars, & lay free from any great use of Cables – If Roberts is [fortunate] eno. to procure afreight at Jamaica [in] that case your Ships have done well thus far. I am &c.

Josh. Wentworth

Roberts Ship proves exceedy well & Sails prodigiously fast, he arrived at Antigua in 17 days.

[Endorsed] Received May 10th. Answer'd May 13th

1. Atkinson Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Saturday, April 29, 1775, Afternoon.

The President having received a Letter from Messrs. Nicholas Brown and Joseph Brown, dated Providence, April 27, 1775, desiring that the Congress would observe secrecy in respect to the capture of their brother, John Brown, at Newport, on the 26th instant: And also another from the Honourable Stephen Hopkins, Esquire, dated Providence, April 27th, 1775, presented the same to this Congress; which being read,

Ordered, That Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, Colonel [Joseph] Gerrish, and Doctor [John] Taylor, be, and they hereby are appointed a Committee to confer with the abovesaid Joseph Brown, who now waits the further advice of this Congress.

Ordered, That said Committee be, and they hereby are authorized to consider what is proper to be done, and make a report forthwith.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 774, 775, from Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT ¹

Sir

Boston 29th April 1775

I transmit you herewith a circumstantial account of an unhappy affair that happened in this Province on the 19th Instant, between His Majesty's Troops, and the people of the country, whereby you will see the pitch their Leaders have worked them up to, even to commit hostilities upon the King's Troops when an opportunity offered ² – It has long been said that this was their plan, and so it has turned out.

I am with regard and esteem Sir [&c.]

Tho^s Gage

1. Trumbull Papers, IV, 713, ConnSL.

2. See under date of April 19, 1775.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1775

Providence, April 29.

On Wednesday last [April 26], as two of our Packet-Boats were returning from Newport, without about 300 Barrels of Flour, the Property of Mr. John Brown, Merchant of this Place, (who was on board one of them) they were taken into Custody by the Men of war stationed there, – and one of the Packets, with Mr. Brown on board, and 200 Barrels of Flour, we hear has since been sent to Boston.

The Troops stationed at Marshfield and a Number of Friends of Government (so called) were taken on board some armed Vessels soon after the late Engagement, and carried to Boston.

INSURANCE POLICY ON THE RHODE ISLAND SLOOP *Lively* ¹

IN the Name of GOD, Amen *John Tillinghast of Providence Marriner* ² as well as in *his* own Name, as for and in the Name and Names of all and every other Person or Persons to whom the same doth, may or shall appertain, in Part or in all, doth make Assurance, and causeth himself, and them, and every of them, to be insured, lost or not lost, the Sum of *Six Hundred dollars on the Body*,

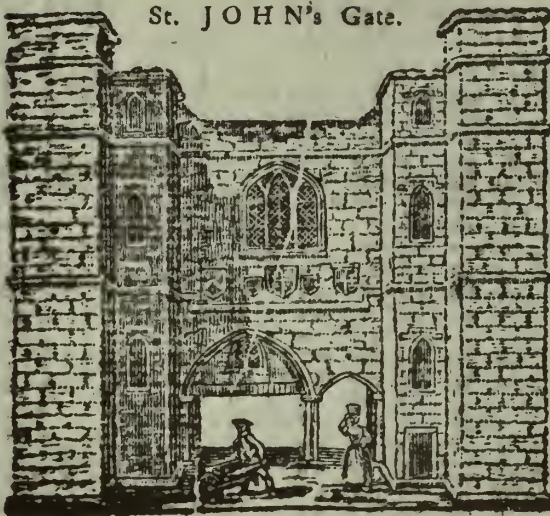
The Gentleman's Magazine:

London Gazette
Daily Advertiser
Public Advertiser
Public Ledger
Gazetteer

St. James's Chron.
London Chron.
General Evening
Whitehall's Even.
London Evening
Lloyd's Evening,
Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

Oxford
Cambridge
Reading
Northampton
Birmingham 2
Bath 2 papers
Coventry 2
Bristol 3

St. JOHN'S Gate.



York 2 papers
Dublin 3
Newcastle 3
Leeds 2
Edinburgh
Aberdeen
Glasgow
Ipswich
Norwich
Exeter
Gloucester
Salisbury
Liverpool
Sherborn
Worcester
Stamford
Nottingham
Chester
Manchester
Canterbury
Chelmsford

For M A Y, 1775.

CONTAINING

More Quantity and greater Variety than any Book of the Kind and Price.

union meet;
ie,
the sweet,

to slip;
Joos,—

IMPROMPTU. *On the sailing of the Cerberus
with the three General Officers on the American Expedition.*

Behold the Cerberus th' Atlantic plow,
Her precious cargo Burgoyne, Clin-
Bow! Wow! Wow! [ton, Howe,

APRIL 29, 1775.

THE

NUMBER 128.

VIRGINIA

With the Freshest ADVICES,

IN CIVITATE LIBERA LINGUAM MYNTEMQUE

PRINTED by JOHN DIXON and



GAZETTE.

FOREIGN and DOMESTICK.

LITERAS BIAS DEBERE. — 1775 in THE 1775

Wm. HUNTER, at the Post Office

then her into that port.

March 2. A correspondent thinks it an odd circumstance, that the Cerberus (whom the Poets feign to be the three headed dog that guards the mouth of hell) should be the ship appointed to carry over to America the three Generals appointed to tame the Americans.

A short time since Mess. Horton and Norton, of Norton, in Staffordshire, married the daughter each other, and then the old men kneeled down, and asked each others blessing.

(Top) Extract from The Gentleman's Magazine, May, 1775. (Bottom) Extract from Dixon and Hunter's The Virginia Gazette, April 29, 1775.

tackel, apparel, also on the Cargo goods &c on board the Sloop Lively – from Providence to St Eustia with liberty to touch at the Granades whereof is Master, under GOD, for this present Voyage, *John Tillinghast* or whosoever else shall go for Master in the said Vessel, or by whatsoever other Name or Names the same Vessel, or the Master thereof, is or shall be named or called; beginning the Adventure upon *the said Vessel and her Cargo at her sailing from Providence to Continue running all risques of every kind and nature during her passage to and her arrival at St Eustia and moor'd twenty four hours with Liberty to touch at the Granades* And it shall be lawful for the Vessel, &c. in this Voyage, in Cases of Extremity and Distress, to proceed and sail to, and touch at any Ports or Places whatsoever, without Prejudice to this Insurance. Touching the Adventures and Perils which we the Assurers are contented to bear, and do take upon us in this Voyage; they are of the Seas, Men of War, Fires, Enemies, Pirates, Rovers, Thieves, Jettisons, Letters of Mart and Counter-Mart, Surprisals, Taking at Sea, Arrest, Restraints and Detainments of all Kings, Princes and People, of what Nation, Condition or Quality soever; and of all Perils, Losses and Misfortunes, that have or shall come to the Hurt, Detriment or Damage of the said *Vessel & Cargo* or any Part thereof. And in case of any Loss or Misfortune, it shall be lawful for the Assureds, their Factors, Servants and Assigns to sue, labour, and travel for, in and about the Defence, Safeguard and Recovery of said *Vessel & Cargo* or any Part thereof, without Prejudice to this Insurance; to the Charges whereof we the Assurers will contribute, each one according to the Quantity of [blank] Sum herein assured. And that in case of any Average Loss, not exceeding *Ten Pounds per Cent.* the Assurers, by Agreement with the Assured, are not to pay or allow any thing towards such Loss. And in case of any Loss, the Money to be paid in *thirty Days* after Proof of the same. And it is agreed by us the Insurers, that this Writing, or Policy of Assurance, shall be of as much Force and Effect as the surest Writing, or Policy of Assurance, heretofore made in Lombard-Street, or in the Royal Exchange, or elsewhere in LONDON. And so we the Assurers are contented, and do hereby promise and bind ourselves, each one for his own Part, our Heirs, Executors and Goods, to the Assureds, their Executors, Administrators and Assigns, for the true performance of the Premises, confessing ourselves paid the Consideration due unto us for this Assurance by the Assureds, at and after the Rate of *two pounds ten shillings per Cent.* And in case of any Dispute arising thereupon, the Matter in Controversy shall be submitted to, and decided by, Referees, chosen by each Party, agreeable to the Rules and Customs in LONDON.

IN WITNESS whereof, We the Assurers have subscribed our names, and Sums assured, in *Providence* in New-England. *April 29th 1775.*

£60 I Joseph Crawford Juner am Content for Sixty Pounds

£60 I Tho Greene Am Content for Sixty pounds Lf Mony

£60 I Philip allen am Content for Sixty Pounds Law

1. RIHS, Mss. Collections, vol. 2.

2. The policy is a printed form. Handwritten insertions appear in italics. The policy is presented as an example of insurance methods up to and even a little beyond the date of Lexington and Concord.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH, MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Saturday 29th April 1775

It is impossible fully to describe the agitated State of the Town since last Sunday, when the News first arrived of the Skirmish between Concord and Boston. – At all corners People inquisitive for News – Tales of all Kinds invented believed, denied, discredited . . . 2 Sloops laden by [John] Watts for Boston with Provisions unladen. In that Night the City Armory open the Powder taken out of the Powder House . . . [Isaac] Sears yesterday afternoon with 360 Armed Men waited on [Andrew] Elliot the Collector and got the Keys of the Custom House to shut up the Port – The Merchants are amazed & yet so humbled as only to sigh or complain in whispers. They now dread Sears's Train of armed Men –

1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, 222.

30 Apr. (Sunday)COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Colony of the Massachusetts Bay County of Cumberland

To the Honourable the Representatives of the Several Towns in sd Colony in General Congress assembled

May it please your Honours, We the Committee of Correspondance of the Several Towns in sd County beg leave to Represent to your Honours the Circumstances of this County in this day of Strugel & Danger – in the first place we confess our Towns have in general heretofore been negligent in providing Arms and Amunition according to Law, until distress came upon us, from our Mother Country & then were debar'd from having them from thence where we were wont to Purchase them, since which we have not been able to furnish our selves – and in the next place we are in a distress'd Scituation with respect to provision for our people to subsist upon till their years Crops come in owing in part to their last year Crops of Corn being cut short by the Drought & so many of our People not being Farmers but Lumbering Sailors &ca together with the Difficulty and Danger there now is of getting any from the Southern Governments, owing to their carefullness to keep a sufficient supply for their own people in this day of Expencc and the hazzard of having it taken by the Men of Warr and Tenders, could we procure any of them & where to fly for Relief but to your Honors we know not: Notwithstanding these difficultys we can with pleasure say that the people of this County, almost Universally, are zealous in the Cause of Constitutional Liberty and have exerted themselves in Complying with the Recommendations of the Congress, and in particular in Raising a Regiment of hardy & Spirited men for the Service of the Colony, who have been Exercising every day as we Understand, for sometime past, and expected to be sent for to the Army, till lately we have the satisfaction to hear the Army is like to be Compleat without them – We would likewise Represent to your Honours that We are exposed to our Enemies by Sea and Land, by Sea our Sheep & Cattle on the Islands and Shores are expos'd to

be Ravag'd by every little Tender that may be sent to get fresh Meat for their Fleet and Army, and by Land we may be Alarm'd by the Inroads of our Old Enemies the Indians & French, tho' we hope better things from them.

Wherefore we pray your Honours to take our plain and Just representation into Consideration and if Possible find out some way whereby we may be Supply'd with some Arms, Ammunition and Provision, and that the Regiment Inlisted here, may be Stationed Among us, paid and subsisted at the Charge of the Publick, for our Defence, until they shall be more wanted Elsewhere, in which Case they will be Ready to March on the first Notice, and while here to be Employ'd in such a manner as may be most for our Safty and Advantage, And that they may pass muster here, by some person that may be Appointed for that Purpose, Your Honours favourable answer to our Request will much Oblige this County of Cumberland in whose Behalf we are [&c.]

Jedediah Preble Chairman

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 21, 22. Undated, but probably written at the end of April 1775.

CAPTAIN BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Cambridge, April 30, 1775

You have desired me to state the number of cannon, &c. at Ticonderoga. I have certain information that there are at Ticonderoga eighty pieces of heavy cannon, twenty brass guns, from four to eighteen pounders, and ten to twelve large mortars. At Skenesborough, on the South-Bay, there are three or four brass Cannon. The Fort is in a ruinous condition, and has not more than fifty men at the most. There are large numbers of small arms, and considerable stores, and a sloop of seventy or eighty tons on the Lake. The place could not hold out an hour against a vigorous onset.

Benedict Arnold

Honourable Joseph Warren, and the honourable Committee of Safety

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety [Cambridge] April 30, 1775

Capt [Benedict] Arnold Captain of a Company from Connecticut attended & Reports, that there are at Ticondarogo 80 peices heavy Cannon, 20 ps. Brass Cannon from 4 to 18 pounders, 10 or a doz. Mortars at Skenesborough on the South Bay 3 or 4 ps. Brass Cannon. the Fort in a ruinous condition suppose has about 40 or 45 Men a number of Small Arms and considerable Stores – A Sloop on the Lake of 70 or 80 Tons –

William Cooper Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 146.

MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO THE SELECTMEN OF MEDFORD ¹

Gentlemen

Cambridge April 30. 1775

You are desired to send to Charlestown Neck about 20 men to take the five Boats that lye there & carry them up Mistick river, to Monotomy, or such Other

WILLIAMSBURG, SATURDAY, April 29, 1775.

LA TE last night an express arrived from Philadelphia, with the following melancholy advices from the province of Connecticut, forwarded to the committee of correspondence in this city.

The blow (so much dreaded by our noble friend LORD CHATHAM) is now struck, a great deal of blood spilt, and much more, it is likely, than the present advices communicate. That great man, in his speech upon the necessity of withdrawing the troops from Boston (delivered in the House of Lords the 20th of January last) says: "Perhaps, even whilst I am now speaking, the decisive blow is struck, which may involve millions in the consequences; and, believe me, the very first drop of blood that is spilled will not be a wound easily skinned over; it will be irritable vulnus, a wound of that rancorous and festering kind, that, in all probability, will mortify the whole body."

PHILADELPHIA, April 24, 1775.

An express arrived at five o'clock this evening, by which we have the following advices, viz.

WATERTOWN, Wednesday morning, near 10 o'clock.

To all FRIENDS of AMERICAN LIBERTY.

BE it known, that this morning, before break of day, a brigade, consisting of about 1000 or 1200 men, landed at Phipps farm, at Cambridge, and marched to Lexington, where they found a company of our colony militia in arms, upon whom they fired, without any provocation, and killed six men, and wounded four others. By an express from Boston, we find another brigade is now on its march from Boston, supposed to consist of 1000 men. The bearer, Trial Brisset, is charged to alarm the country, quite to Connecticut; and all persons are desired to furnish him with fresh horses, as they may be needed. I have spoken with several, who have seen the dead and wounded. Pray let the Delegates from this colony to Connecticut see this; they know Col. Foster, one of the Delegates.

J. PALMER, one of the committee.

A true copy from the original, by order of the committee of correspondent of Worcester, April 1775.

Attested and forwarded by the committees of Brookline, Norwich, New London, Lyme, Saybrook, Killingworth, E. Guilford, Guilford, Brandford, Newhaven.



British landing barge.

place as you Judge will be safe from the Men of War's Boats, assistance will be ready to help launch them tomorrow morning at nine o'Clock

N.B. You must send oars.

[Endorsed] In Committee of Safety [Ordered] that Richd Devers be directed to attend that service 60 men will be necessary to launch the Boats

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 146, 30a.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir,

Boston April 30th 1775

The Communication between this and the other Colonies being entirely stopt by Land, I think it of the greatest Consequence to the King's Service that Some Small vessels Should be got ready to carry Dispatches between this and New York and at times to Piscataqua

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE, H.M.S. *Falcon* ¹

Whereas in the present Rebellious State of this Country it is extremely difficult to procure fresh Meat even for the sick of his Majs Squadron under my Command, and whereas I am informed there is a great quantity of Cattle upon Elizabeth Islands near Falmouth in this Province, which it is absolutely necessary to prevent being carried to the Main; You are hereby required and directed with all possible Dispatch to proceed to Tarpawlin Cove in his Majs Sloop under your Command and there endeavour to hinder any Cattle live Stock or Hay upon the Islands being taken off, but you are upon no Account to suffer any Injury to be done to the Property or the Persons of the Inhabitants by any persons whatsoever, so long as they shall demean themselves like dutiful and peaceable Subjects to his Majesty; and if by any means you can prevail upon the Owners of the Cattle to dispose of them for his Majestys Use, you are to acquaint me thereof as soon as possible with the Terms upon which they are inclined to sell.

And as you cannot remain in Tarpawlin Cove without great Danger when the Wind is Easterly, you are to move occasionally to Holmes Hole and Mannantha Bite as the Easterly or Southerly Winds shall render necessary. For all other Orders I refer you to my general Orders and Instructions which you have already received.

Given under my Hand on Board His Majs Ship *Preston* at Boston the 30th April 1775

By Command of the Admiral

G. Gefferina

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 413, 414, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE, H.M.S. *Falcon* ¹

Notwithstanding my Orders to you of this Morning you are hereby required and directed to proceed as fast as possible to Martha's Vineyard in his Majs Sloop under your Command, where you will find the Ship *Champion*, Paddock Master, laden with Flour and Wheat; You are to seize the said Ship and send her im-

mediately to Boston under the Command of an Officer from the *Falcon*, and then proceed to Eliza Islands according to my former Orders.

Given under my Hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston* at Boston the 30 April 1775

Sam¹ Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 414, MassHS Transcript.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 30 April 1775

I wrote you already by this Conveyance of the brig *Mary Carrol* for Cork & yrs port Loaded with wheat & flour ² Since then have Recvd yrs by Norwood Yesterday,³ Kenne[d]y also arrivd here Yasterday ⁴ & I believe shall get a Good freight for him, G[eorge] D[arley] has Rubed me a little about not being more particular about Vessells that are Loading here to you however you shall not Complain hereafter the Schooner will go in Eight days ⁵ I am glad Kennedy has so few Servants as the demand for them is gone Since the Boston news came I shall answer your letter by Norwood soon . . . there are two brigs. Whate & Flour Loaded ready to Sail for Bristol which with the Vessell that Carries this, will all go together, . . . true prices Wheat 6/3 flour 14/4 but do you Quote them higher at same time I think it must fall soon as there is some suspicion that Congress will Stop Exports next month . . .

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.
2. Brig *Mary Carroll*, Peter Simonds, master, cleared for Dublin on May 1, 1775.
3. Ship *Hercules*, John Norwood, master, from Dublin, with 119 servants, entered, April 27, 1775.
4. Ship *Baltimore Packet*, Alexander Kennedy, master. Its entry is not shown in the Maryland Port of Entry Books, 1745–75, MdHS.
5. Schooner *Industry*.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE DARLEY, DUBLIN ¹

[Baltimore] 30 April 1775

I wrote you the 26 Inst since then have Recvd yrs by [John] Norwood who arrived yasterday & shall answer them soon ² [Alexander] Kennedy also Arrived Yesterday ³ & I think shall get him a freight for England as I cannot Complete the orders for him from [John] Wright.⁴ I observe what you say about my not Giving G[eorge] S[almon] proper Information. & am obligd to you & shall Remedy it hereafter, the Schooner ⁵ will Sail in Eight days I hope for your place, she would be gone by this had we not lost her Mast Hieving down [James] Green goes Mastr of her, be sure [to] Insure her with you & if you can sell her with you it will be best if not she must Come out Immediately. this Goes by the Brig *Molly* [*sic Mary*] *Carrol* for Cork & your port by whom I have already wrote. I refer you to G.S. for further News.

Yrs

G. W.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.
2. Master of the ship *Hercules*.
3. Master of the ship *Baltimore Packet*.
4. Wright was a merchant of Dublin.
5. Schooner *Industry*.

WILLIAM REYNOLDS TO MESSRS. PASLEYS & CO.¹

Gentlemen

Virginia April 30th 1775

By the Schooner *Rochester* Capn Elliott you will receive four Thousand five hundred bushels Indian Corn as P Bill of loading inclosed, which doubt not you will dispose of on the best terms you can for my Interest, the Nett proceed thereof you will please to remitt by the first opportunity to Messrs John Norton & Son's in London. I shall write to those Gentlemen to make Insurances & therefore must desire you will advise them Immediately on her arrival. I have not recd any letter from you lately but by a letter wrote Mr Ronald dated in January I find your Markets are good which has encouraged me to make you this consignment I am [&c.]

1. William Reynolds Letter Book, LC.

1 MayCOLONEL JOHN THOMAS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen – one Captain Davis from the Southward came to Inform of a large Number of Whaling Boats now at Falmouth in the County of Barnstable and Nantucket that are Halled up which may be easily got here if wanted. The people that Way are afraid they will be taken from them by the Tenders the Messenger could not wait on you but desired I would inform you relative to this Matter any Orders your Honors shall think proper to give relative to this Matter will be forwarded by your Humble Servt

Roxbury Camp 1 May 1775

Jn^o Thomas

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 125.

LEMUEL WILLIAMS TO BENJAMIN AKIN ¹

Sir

Dartmouth 1st May 1775

I am desired to acquaint you that Mr Samuel Allen (by the desire of the principal part of the Inhabitants of this Place) is sent to you to know the Minds of the Provincial Congress, whether it is most proper at this Time for the Merchants in this Place to send their Vessels and Provisions to sea or not, your early proposing the same to that Respectable Body will much oblige your most humble Servant

Lemuel Williams

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO JOSEPH WANTON, GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND ¹

Sir

Boston 1st May 1775

I have received your Letter of the 27th April, in regard to Mr [John] Brown of Providence; the Vessel he is in, is not yet come round, but I have already spoken to the Admiral; and expect on Mr Browns Arrival, he will be dismissed as I dont as [sic! at] present, see any reason for his detention.

I am with great Regard &ca

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, H.M.S. *Asia*¹

You are hereby required and directed to put to Sea in his Majs Ship under your Command with all convenient dispatch and proceeding forthwith to New York, you are to anchor if possible before the City.

On your Arrival you are to consult with his Majesty's Lieutt Governor of that Province in what manner you can best assist, by the means of the Kings Ship you command, towards supporting the legal Authority of Government, protecting and securing the Kings Stores and the Safety of his Majesty's faithful Subjects in the Province of New York; and you are accordingly to co-operate with the Lieutt Governor and afford him every Assistance in your Power for the above purposes.

You are to take Captain [James] Montagu of his Majesty's Sloop *Kingsfisher* under your Command and employ him and the said Sloop in the best manner you can for the Kings Service.

And whereas I have received undoubted Accounts that great part of the City of New York adopt the measures of the Rebels of this Province, and have threatened to seize all the Kings Stores, If they have not already done it; You are therefore to endeavour by all means possible to preserve the Cannon, Arms and Ammunition, and either by taking them on board the Kings Ships or in any other Vessel prevent their being illegally carried away.

You are to remain upon that Station until further Order. For all other Orders I refer you to my general Orders and Instructions which you will receive herewith.

Given &c May 1st 1775

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 415, 416, MassHS Transcript.

SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INHABITANTS OF NEWPORT TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N.¹

(Copy)

Newport Rhode Island 1st May 1775.

Sir We the Subscribers Inhabitants of the Town of Newport in the Colony of Rhode Island deeply impressed with a grateful Sense of the Support You have on all occasions given to His Majesty's faithful Subjects residing in this Town, and fully convinced that our Peace and Security has for some time past been owing in a great measure to your Attention to His Majesty's Service and spirited Conduct in the Execution of it; return You our unfeign'd Thanks.

It is with the utmost concern We acquaint You that the General Assembly of this Colony, at a late Sessions held at Providence, resolved to raise and embody Fifteen hundred Men for the express purpose (as declared in the Act) of Joining and Co-operating with the Forces of the Neighbouring Colonies, and though the Representatives of this Town entered a timely protest against it, Yet we cannot rest here, We must as faithful Subjects to the King, and in Justice to Ourselves approve the Conduct of our representatives, by shewing our disapprobation of an Act pregnant with so much Evil, by every means that becomes Obedient Subjects and good Citizens.

The difficulties and dangers which may attend us by shewing this disapprobation are obvious, but while We have the Support of the King's Authority and Power, which is in your Hands, and which we earnestly Pray may be continued to Us, We shall cheerfully go on in our Endeavours to deserve that Peace and Security; We have hitherto enjoyed under the Mild and equal Laws of Great Britain, and which the Civil Power of this Colony appears to us unable to give.

These are Sentiments Sir, not hastily adopted, they have been uniformly the Rule of all our Actions.

We are Sir Very Respectfully [&c.]

Cha^s Dudley

John Bell

James Keith

George Rome

Jn^a Halliburton

Jak: Brenton

W^m Hunter

Rob^t Ferguson

Ro^t Jo: Zunn

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, MAY 1, 1775

Newport, May 1.

Last Wednesday [April 26], as Mr. John Brown, of Providence, merchant, was going from this town to Providence, in one of the Packets, the Packet was stopped, by order of Captain [James] Wallace, of the ship *Rose*, and Mr. Brown taken on board the ship *Swan*; soon after which another packet was stopped as she was going up. These Packets had on board a quantity of flour, which Mr. Brown had purchased for a number of vessels he was fitting out. Part, or all of the flour was taken on board the ships; and the next day Mr. Brown was sent off in one of the Packets, to be carried to Admiral [Samuel] Graves at Boston, without having a single reason given for his being thus violently seized and carried out of this colony, contrary to all law, equity and justice.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] May. 1. 1775.

Last Eveng I was told that the Officers of the two Men o' War here had by them a List of 27 Persons in Newport whom they intended to take up; and that I myself was in the List –

1. Stiles, II, 52, LC.

Connecticut Courant, MONDAY, MAY 1, 1775

Hartford, May 1.

By two gentlemen from Newport we have certain intelligence that Mr. John Brown, Merchant of Providence, was employ'd by the General Assembly to procure provisions for the use of the troops now raising in that colony – That on Tuesday last [April 25], he went to Newport, where he purchased a quantity of beef, pork and flour, some of which he shipp'd on board two of their packets for Providence, in one of which he embark'd, when unexpectedly, soon after they left the wharf at Newport, the men of war then lying in the harbour, brought them too, and took out of the packet not only all the provisions, consisting of 400 barrels but the said Mr. Brown, who is still confined on board one of the men of war, and not allow'd

to speak to any of his friends from the shore, nor to write to any of them. [QUERE,] Is it not full time to adhere to the resolution recommended by the Continental Congress, and make REPRISALS, by securing the Kings officers, a quotation from which is as follows, viz.

Resolved, That the seizing, or attempting to seize, any person in America, in order to transport such person beyond the sea for trial of offences committed within the body of a county in America, being against law, will justify and ought to meet with resistance and reprisal.¹

1. The bracketed "Quere" was inserted by the printer of the *Connecticut Courant*. The resolution cited by him is from the Declaration of Rights passed by the First Continental Congress, October 14, 1774.

MINUTES OF THE NORWICH COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee of Inspection held at Norwich first of May 1775

Unanimously Voted by Said Committee that at this Alarming and Critical Scituation of affairs in America, the need and Necessity in all probability we shall have of what Molasses we now have in the Colony, we therefore think it expedient that none of that Comodity be Transported to any other Colony; and we do advise that no person send any from This Town for the above Reason –

We do also Advise for the above Reason that No Sugar be Ship'd to any other Colony from this Town –

Certify'd by me

Dudley Woodbridge Clerk ²

1. W. G. Lane Collection, YUL.

2. Woodbridge later moved to Marietta, Ohio, became one of the prominent citizens of the Northwest Territory, and was counsel for Blennerhassett at his treason trial in Richmond.

LORD DUNMORE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Williamsburg 1st May 1775

Sir The People of this Colony are taking up Arms in all Parts of it, and every Species of Violence is threatned to be executed upon me, unless I restore some Gunpowder which I though it my duty to remove from a Magazine in this Town to Onboard the *Fowey*.

I have reason to believe that the Show which I have made of defending myself by Arming the Persons of my Family and the Assistance given me by Captain [George] Montagu and Mr Stretch of the *Fowey* and Lieutenant [Henry] Collins of his Majesty's Armed Schooner [*Magdalen*], whose Zeal and Spirit on this occasion I take this Opportunity of acknowledging, have alone prevented hitherto, the People from putting their threats into execution, but as the Com-motion is becoming hourly more general, I have thought it necessary to apply to General [Thomas] Gage for such Assistance as he may be enabled to send me; And I do likewise to You Sir, for one of the large Ships of War now under your Command, if She can be spared from other Services. Such a Ship having so considerable a body of Men Onboard, as the Rivers here have, even very high up, great depth of Water, would strike Awe over the whole Country, and a small Post Onshore under the Protection of the Guns of such a Ship would maintain

itself against all the efforts which are in the power of an undisciplined Multitude to make, and would afford a Protection to the Well affected of this Country that might probably then be induced to declare themselves and unite for our common Safety. Men of such a Ship might likewise be spared to cruize in Boats or the small Craft of this Country, about the Mouths of all the Rivers to prevent, effectually, all the Contraband Trade, and particularly the Admission of Arms and Ammunition into the Colony; in short Sir, I rely upon your Zeal for his Maj's Service for either this or such other Assistance as You may be in a Condition to afford me on the present emergency.

I have requested Captain Montagu to detain Lieutt Colins with the *Magdalen*, and I have been obliged to intreat the former Gentleman to receive Lady Dunmore and my Children Onboard his Majesty's Ship as the only place of Safety to which I could send them, which he has been so good, in the politest manner to comply with. I am, Sir, [&c.]

Dunmore

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

LORD DUNMORE TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Copy./

Williamsburg 1st May 1775

Sir./ The Inhabitants of most of the Counties of this Colony are in Commotion, and a Body of two Thousand Men are now Actually preparing to March to the Assault of my House, defended only by my self and the Persons belonging to my Family, the Occasion of which Insurrection is no greater than my having Conveyed from the Magazine in this Town the Powder which was therein (and which I thought too much exposed there to the Attempts of the People) to on Board a Man of War Stationed here, the only place of Safety where it could be lodged. —

The Corporation of this place, have presented an Address to me under the Muskets of their Independant Company which they left only at a little distance from my house when they came to me to demand a restitution of the Powder which however I have not Complied with, And their Armed Men thought proper unexpectedly to disperse, but I have daily received fresh insults from other bodies of Armed Men appearing in Town from the Country, and am now in expectation of the Arrival of the Above mentioned People whose Numbers encourage them to persist in the Undertaking.

I have been Obligated to Send Lady Dunmore and my Children on Board the *Fowey* Man of War, and with the little though cheerfull Assistance given me by Captain [George] Montague and his Officers, and Lieutenant [Henry] Collins of the *Magdalen* Armed Schooner, Joined to the People of my own family I have put myself in the best posture of defence of which our Numbers are Capable, but cannot expect to make any effectual resistance, if as is threatened the People make very resolute efforts against us, and we shall therefore, probably be obliged to retire towards the Ship, which I shall delay as long as is prudent: but these proceedings already make the rebellious spirit of those people Sufficiently Manifest, and therefore I think it Necessary to apply to you for such immediate Assistance, as the Circumstances of the Affairs in which you are yourself engaged, and your Orders and Instructions may permit you to Afford me. Two or Three Hundred

Men or even one Hundred would probably prevent my being driven out of the Government, and enable me to Maintain an Entrenched Post on the Bank of one of the Rivers under the Protection of the Guns of a Man of War, till I receive orders from Home, and by displaying the Kings Standard perhaps our Numbers might be increased, by the well affected of the Country, so as to be able to make head against the Insurgents, but without some Appearance of force to protect the first who venture to me, I despair of receiving any Assistance from the Country.

I write to the Admiral at the same time to request one of the large Ships to be sent here which would have a very good effect, if the Service in which the Men of War are engaged will permit him to give me that Support.

I am Sir, &ca

Dunmore

1. Gage Papers, CL.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

(No 26)

Williamsburg 1st May 1775.

My Lord The series of dangerous measures pursued by the People of this Colony against Government, which they have now entirely overturned, & particularly their having come to a Resolution of raising a Body of armed Men in all the Counties, made me think it prudent to remove some Gunpowder which was in a Magazine in this place, where it lay exposed to any attempt that might be made to seize it, & I had reason to believe the People intended to take that step. I accordingly requested of Lieut. [Henry] Collins commanding His Majesty's armed Schooner the *Magdalen*, to convey the Powder on board the *Foway* [sic!] Man of War now on this station, which that Officer, with a party of his Seamen Diligently executed; but tho' it was intended to have been done privately, Mr. Collins & his party were observed, & notice was given immediately to the Inhabitants of this place, Drums were then sent thro' the City – The Independent Company got under Arms – All the People assembled, & during their consultation, continual threats were brought to my House, that it was their Resolution to seize upon, or massacre me, & every person found giving me assistance if I refused to deliver the Powder immediately into their Custody.

In a short time the Mayor & Corporation came to my house leaving their armed force at a little distance, with an Address in reality milder in terms than I expected, but still from the manner in which it was presented can be deemed, if not a treasonable proceeding, at least nothing less than one of the highest insults that could be offered to the Authority of His Majesty's Government. The Address represents the alarm into which the People had been thrown at the taking away the Powder in a private manner by an armed force, particularly at a time when they are apprehensive of Insurrections among their Slaves (some reports having prevailed to this effect) & concludes with a request amounting to a peremptory demand that the Powder be delivered up immediately to them. I thought proper, in the defenceless state in which I find myself to endeavor to sooth them – and answered verbally to the effect, that I had removed the Powder lest the Negroes might have seized upon it to a place of security from whence, when I saw occasion, I would at any time, deliver it to the People, – But in the ferment in which they then appeared it would be highly improper to put it into their hands, as it

would be inconsistent with the Authority I represented to comply with any demand made in the manner of the present. This did not satisfy them & the fury of the People was still represented to me as uncontrollable & the dreadful consequences of it as not to be averted by any other means than complying with their humour, to which I replied only by declaring, I would never depart from the resolution which I had already signified to them I had taken, & by arming myself and the persons of my family to oppose the threatened Attempts. There happened to be then in Town, Capt [George] Montagu commanding the *Fowey*, with his Capt of Marines, a Mr Stretch—& Lieut Henry Collins the Officer already mentioned—These gentlemen immediately joined themselves to my little party, & offered me all the Assistance which could be spared from on board the Ship & Schooner, which only amounts to between 30 & 40 Men.

I was not long after unexpectedly informed the People, by the persuasion of Mr Peyton Randolph & Mr [Robert Carter] Nicholas [III] the Treasurer, had dispersed & appeared satisfied with the answer which I had returned – But parties of armed Men were continually coming into Town from the adjacent Counties the following days, offering fresh insults – and two days ago, three gentlemen of principal families in the Country, arrived deputed as they declared, from a body of 2000, armed Men, who were collected in the neighbourhood of Fredericksbourg, about 100 miles, from this place, & who only waited to be informed by these Messengers that I would deliver up the Powder, as they were determined otherwise to proceed to Williamsburg & assault my house, & spare neither me, nor any person adhering to me.

The Messengers, as they were informed the Powder would not be given up returned vowing the vengeance of their enraged Confederates against me, & I am consequently in hourly expectation of their appearance.

Some of the families have removed from here to avoid the scene that is expected. I have been obliged to send Lady Dunmore & my children on board the *Man of War*, & I shall remain here until I am forced out – But as I cannot expect to be able to make any effectual resistance in this place against the numbers that are said to be moving towards me, I intend to retire towards the Town of York, where the *Man of War*, a 20 gun ship & an armed Schooner lie, under the protection of the Guns of which, & under cover of a little entrenchment which I shall throw up, or at worst on board the *Man of War*, I shall wait for His Majesty's Orders, & I have already signified to the Magistrates of Williamsburg, that I expect them on their allegiance to fall upon means of putting a stop to the march of the People now on their way, before they enter this City, that otherwise I shall be forced, & it is my fixed purpose, to arm all my own Negroes, & receive all others that will come to me, whom I shall declare free – That I do enjoin the Magistrates & all others professing to be loyal Subjects, to repair to my assistance, or that I shall consider the whole Country in an actual state of Rebellion, & myself at liberty to annoy it by every possible means, & that I shall not hesitate at reducing their houses to ashes & spreading devastation wherever I can reach. I have likewise summoned the Council to attend me about the time which these Insurgents are expected here.

I have dispatched a small Vessel to Boston to Genl [Thomas] Gage & Admiral [Samuel] Graves, requesting of the one a small Body of Men, & of the other one of the large Ships under his command – The appearance of such a ship in the interior parts of this Country, where the great depth of water in the Rivers here will permit it to go, would strike the greatest awe, & if I obtain 2 or 300 Men, who might be entrenched under the protection of the guns of such a Man of War, they would there (tho' I should receive no assistance from among the People here) at least 'till I can receive His Majesty's orders to regulate my future conduct, protect me & those Officers of Government who would choose to attend me, & I have reason to believe this would be sufficient to determine many persons to join me, who hitherto from the terror spread by the Committees & other disturbers of Government have been deterred from ever declaring their sentiments.

Whatever may be the issue of this present Insurrection in this Colony, or whether the People will now proceed or not to the atrocious extremities which they have been hardy enough now to avow their intentions of committing – Their conduct has already afforded sufficient evidence of the rebellious spirit with which they are possessed, And therefore if His Majesty thinks it necessary to maintain an appearance of Authority in this Colony during the unhappy struggle between America & Great Britain,² it cannot be affected without a force to support it, which I am in hopes His Majesty will judge requisite to send me, that I may be enabled to protect myself & the other faithful Officers and Friends of Government, who knowing themselves in security will, I am persuaded, exert their utmost efforts, in the service of His Majesty. Every person who has manifested the least partiality to the King's Government, are now become suspected by their furious Countrymen, & are in the greatest danger of falling victims to the rage & violence which accompany all the transactions of these People pretending to contend for Liberty.

If the servants of the Crown should be of opinion that the Authority of Government ought to be enforced here, I am persuaded that if His Majesty should think proper to add to a small Body of Troops to be sent here, a quantity of Arms, Ammunition, & other requisites, for the Service, I could raise such a Force from among Indians, Negroes, & other persons, as would soon reduce the refractory People of this Colony to Obedience.

I am &c.

Dunmore

1. Mss. of Earl of Dartmouth, American Papers. Contemporary copy in PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/1353, LC Transcript.
2. News of Lexington and Concord had reached Virginia on April 29.

2 May

SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INHABITANTS OF FALMOUTH TO LIEUTENANT
HENRY MOWAT, R.N.¹

(Copy)

To Henry Mowat Esqr Captain of His Majesty's Ship *Canceaux*. The Memorial of Us the Subscribers, for themselves and many other faithful Subjects in the County of Cumberland

Sheweth That since the Arrival of His Majesty's Ship under your Command, we have been relieved by your Spirited Conduct from those Anxieties natural to

Persons who are abnoxious to the Enemies of our happy Constitution; and by your courteous and kind behavior to all the Friends of Government, flattered Ourselves with the pleasing Prospect of a continuance of your Protection; but those agreeable Sensations are entirely vanished, and we are reduced to the last degree of despair, by your information, that when Captain Coulsin's Ship will be ready for Sea, You are immediately to leave this Place – and consequently Us, a prey to the Sons of rapine and lawless Violence. We therefore intreat that in your goodness You will remain with us till we can make known our deplorable Situation to General [Thomas] Gage, which we shall do without delay.

We further intreat You will be so obliging to represent our dangerous Situation to Admiral [Samuel] Graves – and as we are now deprived of sending a Petition to his Excellency by Land and having no effectual Method of conveyance by Water, we beg You will suffer an Officer, and a few Men from your Ship to proceed for that purpose.

Nath^l Coffin Physician

Tho^s Oxnard Merchant

Joshua Eldridge Shipmaster

W. Simmons Merchant

W^m Campbell Ship Master

Jos: Dornett Comptroller of Customs

Tho^s Coulson Merchant

Rob^t Pagan Merchant

Edw^d Oxnard Merchant

W^m Tyng Sheriff of the County of Cumberland

Falmouth 2d May 1775

Tho^s Pagan Merchant

J. Wiswall Minister of the Church of England

George Lyde Collector of Customs

Benjⁿ Waite Merchant

Jer: Pote Merchant

Tho^s Cumming Merchant

Abr^m Osgood Merchant

Jere^h Coffin Housewright

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Cambridge] May 2, 1775

Doctor [Joseph] Warren, Colonel [Joseph] Palmer, and Colonel [Henry] Gardner were appointed a Sub-Committee to confer with General [Artemus] Ward, relative to the proposal made by Colonel [Benedict] Arnold, of Connecticut, for an attempt upon Ticonderoga.

Voted, That General [John] Thomas be desired to give such orders respecting the Whale-Boats at Falmouth, and other parts southward, as he may judge proper.

Voted, That the Massachusetts [Provincial] Congress be desired to give an order upon the Treasurer for the immediate payment of one hundred Pounds, in cash; and also order two hundred Pounds of Gunpowder, two hundred weight of Lead Balls, and one thousand Flints, and also ten Horses, to be delivered unto Captain Benedict Arnold, for the use of this Colony, upon a certain service approved of by the Council of War: said Arnold to be accountable for the same, to this or some future Congress, or House of Representatives of this Colony.²

Voted, That Colonel Arnold, appointed to a secret service, be desired to appoint two Field-Officers, Captains, &c. to be allowed the same pay during their

continuance in service as is established for officers and privates of the same rank, who are ordered by the Congress of Massachusetts-Bay to be raised for the defence of the rights and liberties of America; the officers and privates to be dismissed by Colonel Arnold, or the Committee of Safety, whenever they shall think proper.

Voted, That the Committee of Supplies be desired to procure ten Horses for Colonel Arnold, to be employed on a special service.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 750, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.
2. The original report, misdated May 13, 1775, is in Mass. Arch., vol. 146, 42a, and reads: "Resvd That the within Request of the Committee of Safety be granted: and that the Committee of Supplies be they hereby are directed to furnish Colo Arnold with Ten horses Two hundred pounds of Gunpowder & Two hundred pounds of Lead Ball & One Thousand flints at the expence of the Colony & that sd Committee draw upon Henry Gardner Esq Recr Genl for £ One Hundred pounds in favr of sd arnold and take his receipt for the whole sd Arnold to be accountable therefor to this or some other Congress or future house of Representatives."

COLONEL NATHANIEL FREEMAN TO DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH, JR.¹

Sir

Sandwich May 2d 1775 –

I received your Letter inclosing the Resolve of the Committee of Safety as to securing the Boats &c.² I have secured all the Boats in this part of the County that will be of service to the Colony and have given Colo Cobb orders to secure those below which I presume is by this Time done we hauld the Boats ashore & hid them in swampy Land & Woods which was all that could be done here any further orders from the Honble Committee in the Cause of God and my Country I am ready to Execute with the greatest pleasure & am sir your [&c.]

Nath^l Freeman

Doctr Church³

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 126, 127.
2. Resolve of April 25, 1775.
3. Church, at that time a member of the Massachusetts Committee of Safety, turned traitor, was caught, condemned, imprisoned in Connecticut, later released to go into Boston, and was lost at sea on a vessel sailing from Boston early in 1776.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES¹

[Newport] May 2nd, 1775

This afternoon was a Funeral here of a Lieutenant of Marines of one of the Ships here.² They obtained leave of the Governor to land, and about 25 Marines landed at Wh[arf] this afternoon, and buried their Officer under Arms in the Ch[urc]h yard discharging three Vollies, and then retired on board without Molestation

This Aft Capt. Hathaway arrived here. He left New York last Thursday – and tells me that the p[eo]ple there were in Arms, but had not taken possession of the Fort. They had only seized the Magazine of Powder and Arms.

1. Stiles, II, 52, 53, LC.
2. "May 1775, Monday 1 A M departed this life Mr. Joseph Conway 1st Lieut. of Marines." Captain's Journal, H.M.S. *Rose*, PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

“REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY’S SHIP *Rose*”¹

May 1775 Moor’d in Rhode Island Harbour
 Tuesday 2 P M Seized a Sloop one of the Providence Paquets,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

PETER VANDERVOORT TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

[Extract]

New York May 2d 1775

we have now got all unanimous, and the association Paper Inclosed will be Signd by most every man in this City & all Seems now to go well to put [us] in a state of Defence as Cannon &c will be Carried to Kings bridge

our Custom house will be open tomorrow when [Peter] Rogers will [be] Enterd & shall Amediately unload & Dispatch him,² no money to be Collected nor can we sell any thing as little or no Business can be done, but hope all will be Settled in few days – Our Committe have agreed that no Provisions be shipt to Boston, Hallifax, Newfoundland, Cannada or Georgia – but may to all other Parts untill the Generall Congress orders otherways

our association will be Signd by all in this Place, even the Councill will be asked (some of them have already Signd) and they that Refuse their Names will be taken down this association when fully Signd will be Sent to General [Thomas] Gage, as also to England

the Jersey Councill I am told are hearty in their Countrys Cause & will Write Gen^l Gage & its thought ours will do the same

The Virginians are all up in Arms, on Acct of One of their Magizeens being Seized by a man of War (some Say by advice of Lord Dunmore) & they will loose their Blood but they will have it again – . . . shall Write you [] fully by Rogers. I am [&c.]

P Vandervoort

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

2. Captain Peter Rogers, master of Shaw’s sloop *Macaroni*; see Shaw’s letter of April 25 to Vandervoort.

CLEARANCE FROM ANNAPOLIS OF SHIP *Peggy*¹

Time of Clearing	May 2 1775
Ship or Vessel’s Name	Ship <i>Peggy</i>
Master’s Name	William Barrons
Kind of Built	Sq[uare] Stern
Tons	90
Guns	—
Men	11
Where and when built	Rh Island 1773
Where and when registred	Newport 1 Octor 1773
The Names of the Owners of this present Voyage	Christr Champlin

The General Cargoe

Bushels of Corn	600
Barrels of Flour	1600
Tuns of Pig Iron	15
Staves & Heading	2000
Whither bound	Cork

1. Port of Entry Books, 1745–75, MdHS. According to these books, the *Peggy* entered, April 18, 1775, in ballast from the island of St. Croix. This detailed clearance report of the *Peggy* is given because of the subsequent frequent appearance of this vessel and her master, William Barron, in dispatches and letters.

LORD DUNMORE TO HIS MAJESTY'S COUNCIL IN VIRGINIA ¹

At a Council held at the Palace [Williamsburg] May 2, 1775. Present His Excellency the Governor, Thomas Nelson, Richard Corbin, William Byrd, Ralph Wormeley, junior, Esquires, John Camm, Clerk, and John Page, Esquire.

The Governor was pleased to address himself to the Board in the following manner:

Gentlemen, Cominations and insurrections have suddenly been excited among the people, which threaten the very existence of his Majesty's government in this colony; and no other cause is assigned for such dangerous measures than that the gunpowder which had, some time past, been brought from on board one of the King's ships to which it belonged and was deposited in the magazine of this city, hath been removed, which, it is known, was done by my order, to whom, under the constitutional right of the crown which I represent, the custody and disposal of all public stores of arms and ammunition alone belong; and, whether I acted in this manner (as my indispensable duty required) to anticipate the malevolent designs of the enemies to order and government, or to prevent the attempts of any enterprising Negroes; the powder being still as ready and convenient for being distributed for the defence of the country upon any emergency as it was before, which I have publicly engaged to do, the expediency of the step I have taken is equally manifest, and therefore it must be evident that the same head-strong and designing people, who have already but too successfully employed their artifices in deluding his Majesty's faithful subjects, and in seducing them from their duty and allegiance, have seized this entirely groundless subject of complaint, only to enflame afresh, and to precipitate as many as possible of the unwary into acts, which involving them in the same guilt, their corruptors think may bind them to the same plans and schemes which are unquestionably meditated in this colony, for subverting the present and erecting a new form of government.

Induced by an unaffected regard for the general welfare of the people, whom I have had the honour of governing, as well as actuated by duty and zeal in the service of his Majesty, I call upon you, his council in this colony, for your advice upon this pressing occasion, and I submit to you, whether a proclamation should not issue conformable to what I have now suggested; and, before our fellow subjects

abandon themselves totally to extremities, which must inevitably draw down an accumulation of every human misery upon their unhappy country, to warn them of their danger, to remind them of the sacred oaths of allegiance which they have taken, and to call up in their hearts that loyalty and affection, which upon so many occasions have been professed by them to their King, their lawful Sovereign; and further, to urge and exhort, in particular, those whose criminal proceedings on this occasion have been, and are still, so alarming, to return to their duty, and a due obedience to the law; and, in general, all persons whatsoever to rely upon the conduct and tenderness of our most gracious Sovereign to all his subjects, equally, and upon the wisdom of his councils, for a redress of all their real grievances, which redress can only be obtained by constitutional applications; and, lastly, to enjoin all orders of people to submit, as becomes good subjects, to the legal authority of their government, in the protection of which their own happiness is most interested.

The council thereupon acquainted his Excellency, that as the matters he had been pleased to communicate to them were of the greatest consequence, they desire time to deliberate thereon till the next day.

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, May 6, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION OF GLOUCESTER, VIRGINIA ¹

At a meeting of the committee of Gloucester, at the court house on Tuesday the 2d of May 1775.

Resolved, That we will not ship a single hogshead of tobacco to Great Britain until the determination of the Continental Congress, respecting exportation, be known.

Resolved, That we deem the resolution of our committee last November, not to ship any tobacco in future to Mr. Norton's house, as still obligatory; the ship *Virginia* having arrived without the concessions then required.²

Jasper Clayton, Clerk

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, May 6, 1775.

2. "Williamsburg, April 28. The *Randolph*, M'Nabb, and *Virginia*, Arthurs, are just arrived from London, the former in James river, the latter in York." Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, Apr. 28, 1775.

3 May

COMMITTEE OF BRUNSWICK TO MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen

Brunswick May 3d 1775

We, whose Names are hereunto Subscribed, Beg Liberty to Inform You of our Situation, as we are Chosen By this Town to Examine into the Circumstance of it, which we had done, and find the Town very Deficient as to Arms & Amunition, and have sent By Water to Salem, But have Just had our money Return'd Back Without Arms or Ammunition: at present we Have Not more than one quarter of a pound of powder to a Man throughout the Town, Nor more than one firelock To two Men; and in this Defenceless State we are Obligated To Apply to You to Assist our Trusty friend Whom We have Sent Capt Nathaniel

Larrybee, and as we think it Would Be Unsafe to Transport Powder by Water we have Ordered Him to Take only one hundredweight and for him to Consult With You how and in What way it Would be Safest to Get Arms and more Powder Down To us. We Should Esteem it as a Favour, to be informed from You by way of Letter at Every Convenient Oppertunity of Our Publick Affairs. We are,

Gentlemen [&c.]

Aaron Hinkley
Benj^a Stone
Sam^l Standwood
James Curtis

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD ¹

To Benedict Arnold, Esquire, commander of a body of Troops on an expedition to subdue and take possession of the Fort of Ticonderoga:

Sir: Confiding in your judgment, fidelity and valour, we do, by these presents, constitute and appoint you Colonel and Commander-in-Chief over a body of men, not exceeding four hundred, to proceed with all expedition to the Western part of this and the neighbouring Colonies, where you are directed to enlist those men, and with them forthwith to march to the Fort at Ticonderoga, and use your best endeavours to reduce the same, taking possession of the cannon, mortars, stores, &c., upon the Lake; you are to bring back with you such of the cannon, mortars, stores, &c. as you shall judge may be serviceable to the Army here, leaving behind what may be necessary to secure that post, with a sufficient garrison; you are to procure suitable provisions and stores for the Army, and draw upon the Committee of Safety for the amount thereof, and to act in every exigence, according to your best skill and discretion, for the publick interest, for which this shall be your sufficient warrant.

Ben^j Church, Jun. for Com. of Safety
William Cooper, Secretary

My Order
Cambridge, May 3, 1775.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 751, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety May 3d. 1775 Cambridge

Voted, that two Companies be raised in the Towns of Malden & Chelsea for the defence of the Coast of Said Towns, the said Companies to be joined to such regiments in future as they may be ordered to, should there be occasion to discharge them from Service as soon as the public Good will admit of it and that Capt Benjamin Blaney & Capt [Samuel] Sprague be furnishd with a set of Beating Orders each, for said purpose

William Cooper Secy

1. Mass. Records, Military Affairs, Feb.–May, 1775, Force Transcript, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, May 3, 1775

On the application from the Committee of Safety relative to supplying Col [Benedict] Arnold with one hundred Pounds, and sundry Warlike Stores,

Ordered, That Mr. [Benjamin] Greenleaf, Mr. [Moses] Gill, and Mr. [George] Patridge, be a Committee to take said application into consideration and report.

The Committee on the application from the Committee of Safety reported. The Report was read and accepted.

Resolved, That the within request of the Committee of Safety be granted, and that the Committee of Supplies be, and they hereby are directed to furnish Colonel Benedict Arnold with ten Horses, two hundred pounds of Gunpowder, two hundred pounds of Lead Balls, and one thousand Flints, at the expence of the Colony; and that said Committee draw upon Henry Gardner, Esquire, Receiver General, for one hundred Pounds, in favour of said Arnold, and take his receipt for the whole, said Arnold to be accountable therefore to this or some other Congress or future House of Representatives.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

MAJOR GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT ¹

Copy

Boston 3d May 1775 —

Sir I am to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th April last, in behalf of the General Assembly of your Colony, relative to the Alarming situation of Public Affairs in this Country, and the late transactions in this Province. That this situation is greatly alarming, and that these Transactions are truly unfortunate, are truths to be regretted by every Friend to America, and by every well Wisher for the Peace, Prosperity, and happiness of this Province; The Intimate Connection, and strong ties of Friendship, between the Inhabitants of your Colony, and the deluded People of this Province, cannot fail of Inducing the former, to interpose their good Offices, to convince the latter, of the Impropriety of their past Conduct, and to perswade them to return to their Allegiance, and to seek redress of any supposed Grievances, in those decent, and constitutional Methods, in which alone they can hope to be Successful—

That Troops should be employed for the purpose of protecting the Magistrates, in the execution of their Duty, when Opposed with Violence is not a new thing, in the English, or any other Government. That any Acts of the British Parliament are unconstitutional or Oppressive, I am not to suppose; if any such there are, in the Apprehension of the People of this Province, it had been happy for them, if they had sought relief, only in the way which the Constitution, their reason, and their Interest pointed out—

You cannot wonder at my Fortifying the Town of Boston, or making any other military preparations, when you are Assured, that previous to my taking these Steps, such were the open threats, and such the Warlike preparations, throughout this Province, as rendered it my indispensable duty to take every pre-

caution in my power, for the protection of his Majesty's Troops under my Command against all hostile Attempts—

The Intelligence you seem to have received, relative to the late Excurtion of a Body of Troops into the Country, is altogether injurious, and Contrary to the true State of Facts. The Troops disclaim with Indignation, the barbarous Outrages of which they are accused, so contrary to their known Humanity. I have taken the greatest pains to Discover if any were committed, and have found Examples of their Tenderness, both to the Young, and the Old; but no Vestige of Cruelty or Barbarity. It is very possible that in Firing into Houses, from whence they were fired upon, that Old People, Women, or Children, may have suffered, but if any such thing has happened, it was in their defence, and undesigned. I have no Command to ravage and desolate the Country; and were it my Intention, I have had pretence to begin it, upon the Sea Ports, who are at the Mercy of the Fleet, for your better information, I inclose you a Narrative of that Affair, taken from Gentlemen of indisputable Honor, and Veracity, who were Eye Witnesses of all the Transactions of that Day. The Leaders here have taken pains to prevent any Account of this Affair getting abroad, but such as they have thought proper to publish themselves; and to that End, the Post has been stopped, the Mails broke open, and Letters taken out; and by these Means the most injurious and inflammatory Accounts have been spread throughout the Continent, which has served to deceive and inflame the Minds of the People—

When the Resolves of the Provincial Congress, breathed nothing but War, when those two great, and essential Prerogatives of the King, the levying of Troops, and disposing of the public Monies, were wrested from him; and when Magazines were forming, by an Assembly of Men, unknown to the Constitution, for the declared purpose of levying War against the King; You must acknowledge it was my Duty, as it was the dictate of Humanity, to prevent if Possible, the Calamities of a Civil War, by destroying such Magazines— This, and this alone, I Attempted—

You Ask, Why is the Town of Boston now shut up; I can only refer you for an Answer, to those Bodies of Armed Men, who now surround the Town, and prevent all Access to it. The hostile preparations you mention, are such as the Conduct of the People of this Province, has rendered it prudent to make, for the defence of those under my Command. You assure me the People of your Colony, abhor the Idea of taking Arms against the Troops of their Sovereign; I wish the People of this Province; (for their own Sakes) could make the same declaration—

You enquire, is there no way to prevent this unhappy dispute, from coming to Extremities, is there no Alternative, but Absolute Submission, or the desolations of War, I answer, I hope there is. The King and Parliament seem to hold out Terms of Reconciliation, consistent with the Honor and Interest of Great Britain, and the rights and Priviledges of the Colonies. They have mutually declared their readiness to Attend to any real Grievances of the Colonies, and to Afford them every just and reasonable Indulgence, which shall in a dutifull, and constitutional Manner be laid before them; and his Majesty adds, it is his Ardent Wish, that this disposition, may have a happy Effect, on the Temper, and Conduct of his Subjects in America. I must add likewise, the Resolution of the 27th February on the grand dispute of Taxation and Revenue; leaving it to the Colonies, to Tax themselves,

Proba
Lancaster D. 4.5 Mo. 1775

Dear Brother

I have the Satisfaction to Inform my friend, that
Brother John is releas'd, after much Intercession of many
very kind friends and much Solicitation to the General and
Admiral with Whom my personal Access was made. I may
say this, Divine as well as human favour almost familiar
a Circumstance very unexpected from the Characters of Both
when I came from home, I have seldom seen a patient humile
Mind more ~~useful~~ needed nor more useful and as in
proportion as I found this the my. State was made for
Success of those Endeavors that I had from time to time used
May this Dispensation be rightly improved by all abt.
and perhaps to tell Sister Brown. I have often thought of what
she said to me when I came away, let her ascribe
the Release of her Husband to the same Cause and not to any
Human Endeavors otherwise than as poor Instruments
among the fore most in Disloyal Care of Heaven thy self must
largely. I have, Brother Joseph is yet at Boston. I suppose
and Brother John, the said respects to go to Cambridge for gratitudes
to his friend without which will move him, I hope to do his
Endeavors to bring about some relief for this distressed
Country May every friend to Virtue, be aroused at this
alarming period and in sincerity of Heart, throw in
such a Disposition of mind in that Alliance as that the Blessing
of a Mediator and peace maker may be manifested
and the Divine Judgments that are in the earth cause
Righteousness to flow in that of Blood Devastation & Ruin
it is in vain for me to do the Dismissal of the Ministry of ~~any~~
Indeavors for relief is only to be conceived as they connect by
me be desired

Thine

Moses Brown



Moses Brown. By Joseph Partridge, 1822.

under certain conditions. Here is surely a Foundation for an Accomodation, to People who wish a reconciliation, rather than a destructive War between Countrys so nearly connected, by the Ties of Blood and Interest, but I fear the Leaders of this Province, have been, and still are, intent only on Shedding Blood—

I am much Obliged by your favourable Sentiments of my personal Character; and Assure you, as it has been my constant Wish and Endeavour hitherto, so I shall continue to Exert my utmost Efforts, to protect all his Majesty's liege Subjects under my Care, in their Persons and Property. You ask, Whether it will not be consistent with my Duty, to suspend the Operations of War on my part; I have commenced no Operations of War, but Defensive, such you cannot wish me to Suspend, while I am surrounded by an Armed Country, who have already begun, and threaten farther to prosecute an offensive War; and are now Violently depriving me, the Kings Troops and many others of the Kings Subjects under my Immediate protection, of all the conveniences, and Necessary's of Life, with which the Country abounds. but it must quiet the minds of all reasonable People, when I assure you, that I have no disposition to injure or Molest, quiet and peaceable Subjects; but on the contrary, shall esteem it my greatest happiness to defend, and protect them, against every Species of Violence, and Oppression—

I am with great Regard and Esteem-Sir [&c.]

Tho^s Gage

1. U.S. Revolution Collection, LC.

MOSES BROWN TO NICHOLAS BROWN ¹

Dear Brother

Boston 3th of 5th Mo 1775

I have the Sattisfaction to Inform Our friends that Brother John is releas'd, after much Intercession of Many very kind friends and much Sollisitation to the General and Admiral with Whom my personal Access was Made (I may Say 'thro, Divine as well as human favour) almost familiar a Circumstance very unexpected from the Charectors of Both when I came from home, I have Seldom Seen a patient humble Mind more Needed nor more Useful and as in proportion as I found this to be my State way was made for Success of those Endeavors that Seem'd from time to time Used May this Dispensation be rightly Improved by Us all. — and please to Tell Sister Brown I have Often tho't of what she Sead to Me when I came away, let her Asscribe the Release of her Husban to the same Cause and not to any Human Endeavours Otherwise than as poor Instruments among the foremost in Zealous Care & Exertions thy Self Ought Largely to share, Brother Joseph is yet at Roxbury I Suppose and Brother John I believe expects to go to Cambridge, for grattitude to his friends Without & Within will move him I hope to do his Endeavors to bring about Some relief for this Distresd Country May Every friend to Virtue, be Arous'd at this alarming period and in Sincerity of Heart Strive for Such a Disposition of mind in them Selves as that the Blessing of a *Mediator* and peace maker May be Manifested and the Divine Judgements that are in the Earth cause Rightousness to flow in Stead of Blood Devastation & Ruin it is in vain for Me to Ad the Distresses & the Necessity of Endeavors for Relief is only to be Conceived as they cannot by me be described — FareWell

Moses Brown

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

CADWALLADER COLDEN, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK, TO LORD
DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

New York, May 3d 1775

My Lord, The minds of the people in this city were kept in constant agitation, by Riots and attempts to prevent the Transports from loading here, with stores, Provisions &c. for the army. The want of any degree of Resolution in the Magistrates to support the authority of Government in opposition to popular measures, rendered the leaders of the People insolently bold and daring – The friends of order and Government saw no power either in the exertions of the Magistrates or the feeble aid that could be afforded by the very small body of Troops quartered in the city to protect their persons and property from violence and destruction. Several Incidents combined to depress all legal Authority; and to increase the Terror of the Inhabitants, which seemed to vanquish every thought of Resistance to popular Rage.

In this unfortunate situation of the City, the first accounts of an action between the Kings Troops and People, near Boston, was published with horrid and aggravating circumstances. The moment of consternation and anxiety was seized. The people were assembled, and that scene of disorder and violence begun, which has entirely prostrated the Power of Government and produced an association by which this Province had solemnly united with the others in resisting the Acts of Parliament . . . The pretence given out for the necessity of shutting up the Custom House, was to prevent the exportation of Provisions of which it was said all that was in the place would be wanted for the armies of the Colonies. But it is more probable, My Lord, that the real intention was to strike terror by the boldness of the action. Having effected this purpose and established the absolute Power of the Committee; the Keys of the Custom House have been returned to Mr [Andrew] Elliott,² but at the same time a declaration [was] published that no vessel shall be suffered to clear for Boston or Halifax

The whole military Force we have in this Province, my Lord, is the *Kings Fisher* sloop of War and 100 men of the Royal Irish Regiment commanded by Major [Isaac] Hamilton. This small Body of Troops are quartered in the City Barracks without any kind of Protection but in their arms

1. O'Callaghan, ed., *Colonial New York*, VII, 571, 572.

2. Andrew Elliot wrote a full description of his experiences during the period referred to in Colden's letter. It was contained in what he entitled, "A Short Detail of the Conduct of the Collector of New York from December 1774 to March 1776 when the Intercourse Act took place – Commencing with the Account of the Seizure of Arms & Published in the Newspapers at New York the 29th December 1774." This document is in the Andrew Elliot Papers, Box 1, Folder 6, NYSL. It reads in part:

Soon after the affair of Lexington (in April 1775) was known in New York, a Meeting of the People was called in the Fields, from which Meeting 300 Men under Arms Marched with a Committee to the Collectors House in the Country where he then was, – the Gentlemen of the Committee behaved with great Politeness to Mr Elliot and his Family but demanded the Keys of the Custom House, and a Promise from Him that he would Enter or Clear no more Vessels agreeable to the British Acts of Parliament. – The Collector told them that the Keys to the Custom House were always left with his Deputy Mr Moore who resided at the Office – that he was under Oath to Perform the Duties of Collector of the Customs at New York, which he was determined to do as long as it was in his Power Upon this the Gentlemen of the Committee told him, he would not be Suffered to Act in character of Collector

any longer – The Collector pointing to the Bayonets at the Doors and Windows of his House, told them they had given him a full view of their power, what use they meant to make of it rested entirely with themselves; After this Conversation the Committee and Armed Men march'd off, and went directly to the Custom House, and finding the Keys in the Doors (the Collector having sent one of his Servants who got to Town before the Committee with orders for that purpose) The Whole Body returned to the Fields with the Keys, The Collector immediately waited upon the Lieutenant Governor, and told him what had hapened, As the Governor had then no Power left, he desired the Collector to act as he should think best. The Collector returned to his House in the Country and never appeared in Town whilst the Custom House was lock'd up and under Guards: but he informed the Captain of the Man of War what had passed, that all outward bound Vessels might be stopped; He declined speaking on the Subject with all the Merchants who called upon him; The greatest part of the Merchants were much alarmed and sent off an Express to Philadelphia; It was soon found out that the heated frolick was a bad one; at Philadelphia it appeared so at once; The Merchants there sent a Committee to New York, when it was soon agreed to send back the Keys; The Committee of Philadelphia Merchants and one of the New York Merchants, sent to desire a Meeting with the Collector, who informed them he did no business in his present situation, and could not till the Custom House was opened, that he wanted no appologies, he only wanted to do his duty; Early next Morning he was informed the Custom House Doors were opened and the Guard withdrawn, upon which at the usual hour he attended Business without taking any Notice of what had passed, as in the Situation Affairs were then in, it appeared to him best to let a Matter drop; that all now disapproved of altho' too many had been concerned in it.

PROCLAMATION BY LORD DUNMORE, GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA ¹

At a Council held at the Palace [Williamsburg] May 3, 1775, Present, his Excellency the Governor, Thomas Nelson, Richard Corbin, William Byrd, Ralph Wormeley, jun. Esquires, John Camm, Clerk, and John Page, Esquire.

The Board, resuming the consideration of the subject laid before them yesterday by the Governor, advised him to issue the following proclamation; and the same was ordered accordingly.

By his Excellency, the Right Hon. JOHN, Earl of DUNMORE, his Majesty's Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia, and Vice Admiral of the same:

A PROCLAMATION.

VIRGINIA, to wit.

WHEREAS there is too much reason to suppose that some persons, in the different parts of this colony, are disaffected to his Majesty's government, and by their weight and credit with the people are endeavouring to bring the Country into such a situation as to afford them the fairest prospect of effecting a change in the form of it, covering their wicked designs under the specious appearance of defending their liberties, and have taken advantage of the unhappy ferment, which themselves have raised in the minds of their fellow subjects, in prosecution of their dangerous designs to oppose the most undoubted prerogative of the King, which in a late instance I thought it expedient to exert by removing on board his Majesty's ship the *Fowey*, a small quantity of gunpowder belonging to his Majesty, from the magazine in this city; I have thought fit, by advice of his Majesty's council, to issue this my proclamation, with a view of undeceiving the deluded, and of

exposing to the unwary the destruction into which they may be precipitated, if they suffer themselves to be longer guided by such infatuated counsels.

Although I consider myself, under the authority of the crown, the only constitutional judge, in what manner the munition, provided for the protection of the people of this government, is to be disposed of for that end; yet for effecting the salutary objects of this proclamation, and removing from the minds of his Majesty's subjects the groundless suspicions they have imbibed, I think proper to declare that the apprehensions which seemed to prevail throughout this whole country of an intended insurrection of the slaves, who had been seen in large numbers, in the night time, about the magazine, and my knowledge of its being a very insecure depository, were my inducements to that measure, and I chose the night as the properest season, because I knew the temper of the times, and the misinterpretations of my design which would be apt to prevail if the thing should be known. Acting under these motives, I certainly rather deserved the thanks of the country than their reproaches. But, whenever the present ferment shall subside, and it shall become necessary to put arms into the hands of the militia, for the defence of the people against a foreign enemy, or intestine insurgents, I shall be as ready as on a late occasion to exert my best abilities in the service of the country. In the mean time, as it is indispensibly necessary to maintain order and the authority of the laws, and thereby the dignity of his Majesty's government, I exhort and require, in his Majesty's name, all his faithful subjects, to leave no expedient unessayed which may tend to that happy end. Such as are not to be influenced by the love of order for its own sake, and the blessings it is always productive of, would do well to consider the internal weakness of this colony, as well as the dangers to which it is exposed from a savage enemy who; from the most recent advices I have received from the frontier inhabitants, are ready to renew their hostilities against the people of this country. But, as on the one hand, nothing can justify men, without proper authority, in a rapid recurrence to arms, nothing excuse resistance to the executive power in the due enforcement of law, so on the other, nothing but such resistance and outrageous proceedings shall ever compel me to avail myself of any means that may carry the appearance of severity.

Anxious to restore peace and harmony to this distracted country, and to induce a firmer reliance on the goodness and tenderness of our most gracious Sovereign to all his subjects equally, and on the wisdom of his councils for a redress of all their real grievances, which can only be obtained by loyal and constitutional applications, I again call upon and require all his Majesty's liege subjects, and especially all magistrates and other officers, both civil and military, to exert themselves in removing the discontents, and suppressing the spirit of faction, which prevail among the people, that a dutiful submission to the laws of the land may be strictly observed, which shall ever be the rule of my conduct, as the interest and happiness of this dominion ever have been, and shall continue to be, the objects of my administration.

Given under my hand, and the seal of the colony, at Williamsburg, this 3d day of May, 1775, and in the 15th year of his Majesty's reign. DUNMORE.

GOD SAVE THE KING

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, May 6, 1775.

4 May

BOND EXECUTED BY DUMMER SEWALL AND JORDAN PARKER ¹

[Georgetown, May 4, 1775]

Know all Men by these presents that We Dummer Sewall of Georgetown in the County of Lincoln Gentleman and Jordan Parker of said Georgetown Yeoman are holden & stand firmly bound unto the Provincial Congress now setting for the Province of Massachusetts Bay or to their Successors or any person that shall be appointed by the People for the head of the Province aforesaid, in the sum of two thousand pounds to be paid to the said Congress or their successors as aforesaid to which payment well & truly to be made we bind our selves our heirs Executors & Administrators firmly by these presents Seal'd with our seals, dated the fourth day of May Anno Domini seventeen hundred & seventy five.

The Conditions of the above obligation is such that Whereas Edward Parry Esqr has been taken by, & now is in Custody of Coll Samuel Thompson as a suspected Enemy to the rights of America Now if the above bounden Dummer & Jordan shall keep the said Edward in safe Custody till he shall be released by order of the Provincial Congress & that the said Edward shall not either by himself or any for or under him, remove the masts spars booms boards &c now laying in the mast dock in said Georgetown & shall not write to any of the officers of the army or Navy for protection or against the Country then the above obligation to be void otherwise to be in force —

Dum^r Sewall Seal.

Jordan Parker Seal.

Test

Jn^o WoodJn^o Hobby

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 37.

BOND OF JOHN HOBBY AND OBE HUBBS, MERCHANTS OF GEORGETOWN ¹

Know all Men by these presents that We John Hobby and Obe Hubbs both of George Town in the County of Lincoln, Merchants, are holden and stand firmly bound unto the Provincial Congress now setting for the Province of Massachusetts Bay, or to their Successors, or any person that shall be appointed by the People for the Head of the Province aforesd in the Sum of Two thousand pounds to be paid to the said Congress or their Successors as aforesd to which payment well and truly to be made, We bind ourselves, our heirs, Executors and Administrators firmly by these presents, Sealed with our Seals dated the fourth day of May Anno Domini, Seventeen hundred and Seventy five.

The Conditions of the above obligation is such that Whereas John Bernard Esqr has been taken by, and now is in Custody of Coll Samuel Thompson as a suspected Enemy to the rights of America, Now if the above bounden John Hobby & Obe Hubbs shall keep the said John in safe Custody till he shall be released by order of the provincial Congress, and that the said John shall not either by himself or any [person] for or under him, remove his Vessel from Long reach in Kennebeck River & shall not write to any of the Officers of the Army or

Navy for Protection or against the Country, then the above obligation to be void, otherwise to be in force.

Jn^o Hobby Obe Hubbs

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 173, 40.

LIEUTENANT HENRY MOWAT, R.N. TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Canceaux, Falmouth, Casco Bay, 4th May 1775.

Sir, Since my Letter to you of the 24th Ult: by Ensign Hill, the greater part of the people in this part of the Country have been constantly under Arms, threatening destruction to the Persons and Properties of those who refuse to join with them; in the Town of Brunswick near Kennebeck River, two Hundred of them Assembled, took Mr [Edward] Parry the Contractors Agent for the Navy Masts into Custody and all the Masts in the River belonging to him, which they hourly threaten to destroy: they also laid hold of Five of the principal Friends to Government, one of which they buried Alive, and put the rest in Jail; ² as soon as they had finished this, they resolved to embark on board of Two Sloops in order to repair to Falmouth, board, and burn the *Canceaux*, and the two Vessels she has in Charge, this Resolution was made known here, the Night before last, upon which their Associates of the Town assembled, disapproved of the Plan, and refused Assistance, excepting Major [Enoch] Freeman and the lower Class; – this Man I have mentioned in my former Letters as a leading Instrument of Sedition in these parts, and it is a great pity he should be left so long among them. Since I was made acquainted with this History I have dared them to put their Plan in execution though the Ship is not manned equal to my wishes, yet the few Hands that I have picked up since I have been here, gives me a fairer prospect of the safety of those Vessels I have in Charge. The new Ship is now almost in a Condition to go to Sea, which she would have been some time ago, had the Smiths and Carpenters been suffered to work, the labourers to a Man refuse to load, and as yet Mr. [Thomas] Coulson has not been able to procure any Seamen, although he has used every means, not only here, but at Marblehead and Salem, to which place he sent the Master of his Sloop for that purpose –

The Friends of Government of this Town, have represented their situation to General [Thomas] Gage, and they have also requested me to spare them an Officer and a few Hands to go in a Vessel to Boston, which they have hired for that purpose; a Copy of which Application I herewith enclose: ³ indeed I am happy in this opportunity myself, as I am still without a reply to the Letters that I wrote to Captain [Andrew] Barkley; though I can now have but poor hopes of your sparing any Marines, if there is any truth in the reports that circulate here.

Mr [William] Tyng the Sheriffe of this County carries the Petition to the General, and at the same time means to pay his respects to You: this Gentleman is well acquainted with the dispositions of the People in this part of the Country and not less so with the Seditious and Rebellious Principles that are daily practiced hereabouts, by which he has suffered not a little. With this I transmit the State and Condition of the Armed Ship under my Command. I am Sir [&c.]

H. Mowatt

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

2. An erroneous report.

3. See the Petition of Inhabitants of Falmouth, May 2, 1775.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN IN PITTSFIELD TO AN OFFICER AT
CAMBRIDGE, DATED MAY 4, 1775"¹

I have the Pleasure to acquaint you that a Number of Gentlemen from Connecticut went from this Place last Tuesday Morning [May 2], having been joined by Colonel [James] Easton, Captain [Israel] Dickinson and Mr. [John] Brown, with 40 soldiers, on an Expedition against Ticonderoga and Crown Point, expecting to be reinforced by a thousand Men from the [New Hampshire] Grants above here, a Post having previously taken his Departure to inform Col. Ethan Allen of the Design, and desiring him to hold his Green Mountain Boys in actual Readiness. The expedition has been carried on with the utmost Secrecy, as they are in Hopes of taking those Forts by Surprise. We expect they will reach those Forts by Saturday next, or Lord's day at farthest. — The Plan was concerted at Hartford last Saturday [April 29] by the Governor and Council; Col. [John] Hancock, and Mr. Adams, and others from our Province being present.² Three Hundred Pounds were drawn immediately out of the Treasury for the aforesaid Purpose, and committed to these gentlemen that were here. We earnestly pray for success to this important Expedition, as the taking those Places would afford us a Key to all Canada. Should Success attend this Expedition, we expect a strong Reinforcement will be sent from the Western Part of Connecticut to keep those Forts, and to repair and fortify them well.

1. *New England Chronicle*, Cambridge, May 12 to May 18, 1775.

2. The Massachusetts delegates were enroute to the Second Continental Congress at Philadelphia, and both John and Samuel Adams could have been present.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE,
COMMANDING¹

May 1775 Off Castle William Island [Boston Harbor]

Thursday 4 at 11 the Rebels came down the Point & fired several times at the Ship & our boats as they passd on which we discharged some Musquets at them but they taking no notice of it we fired seven Swivels & dispersed them.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

"THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXACT COPY OF A LETTER WHICH WAS INTERCEPTED
AT ROXBURY LAST WEEK"¹

Dear Sons

Boston, 4th May, 1775

After my affecnate Love to your Mother Sisters &c: Inform you that on the 27th of april I Left the Ship took passage on Board a packet sloop on the 1st Instant in Health arrived here, Where I Expect to Stay till the Rebels are Subdued, which I Believe will not be long first as the Ships and troops are Dayly Expected, my Greatest feers are you will be Sedused or Compeld to Take arms with those Deluded people. Dear sons if those Wicked Siners the rebels Intice you believe them not, but Die by the Sword Rither than be hanged, as Rebels, which will certainly be your fate Sooner or Later if you Joyn them or be Kild in battel and will be no more

than you Decarve, I wish you in Boston and all the frinds to Government. the Rebels have proclaimed that those frinds may have Liberty and Cum in, but as all there Declarations have hether too proved I fear false this may be so, Let Ruggles Know his father wants him here,² you may Cum by water from Newport; if here the King will Give you provisions & pay you Wages but by Expearance you Know your Persons nor Estates are not Safe in the Countrey for as Soon as you have Raised any thing theyl Rob you of it, as they are more Savage and cruell then Heathens or any other Craturs & it is Generaly Thought then Devils, you will put yourselves out of ther power as soon as posable – This is from your Effectonat Father

To Thomas, Peres, Bradford Gilbert

Thos Gilbert

P.S. Pagget, Green, and Jack are here, it will be well if these Lines Reach you as all my Letters are inter septed by those Rebels who want Every one to be kept in Dark like them selves (Misery Loves Compy)

Directed to Major Thomas Gilbert, in Burkley³

1. *Massachusetts Spy*, Worcester, May 17, 1775. The senior Gilbert had been the leader of the abortive gathering of Loyalists in Freetown.
2. Timothy Ruggles, a veteran of the French and Indian War and an ardent Loyalist.
3. The town of Berkley, Mass., lying south of Taunton.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES¹

[Newport] May 4. [1775]

A little before sunset Mr. Russel of Providence came to town and informs that Mr. Jno. Brown was dismissed and came home to Providence last night about XI h at night. That he was first put on board Adm. [Samuel] Graves, then bro't before Gen [Thomas] Gage. Capt. [James] Wallace's pretence for apprehending him was that he was concerned in burning the *Gaspee* Schooner. Application was made to Judge [Peter] Oliver of the Commissioners that sat on that Affair at Newport and he testified that no Accusation was exhibited against Mr. Brown, upon which Gen. Gage dismissed him, paid him for his flour, ordered the Packets to be returned to Providence and to be paid Demurage, and has sent off a Reprimand to Capt. Wallace of the *Rose Man o' War* here – A humbling stroke to the Tories! The General and Admiral treated Mr. Brown politely and dismissed him with Honor.

1. Stiles, II, 57, LC.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN¹

[Baltimore 4 May, 1775]

I wrote you the 30th last month to which be Referd I can now tell you I have Sold the Servants by [Alexander] Kennedy & Chartered the Ship for Falmouth the Schooner will sail in a few days for Dublin this goes by a Ship Captn Brown for Bristol² flour Loaded the *Hercules* is Loading for Bristol also a Nother large Ship & four Brigs & Snows for London & other parts of England. We are under

some fear of our ports being shut which has made me Hurry the sale of the Servants & Chartering of the Ship for fear of Detention since the Boston Engagement Genl [Thomas] Gage has given orders for all Vessells in N[ew] England to be Seized for the use of his Majesty Matters Looks gloomy & there [is] no telling when they will mend. tell [David] Sherrard I have shipped him 20 bbls flour in the Schooner³ Make G.[eorge] D.[arley] Insure the Schooner home I refer you to him for more particulars true price of wheat 6/ a 6/4 flour 14/ Ex 55. I am affraid I shall not be able to complete any of the Newry orders.

Yrs

G. W

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Ship *Industry*, Arthur Barnes (not Brown) master, cleared May 3 for Bristol. Md. Port of Entry Books, 1774-75, MdHS.

3. Schooner *Industry*.

CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU, R.N., TO THOMAS NELSON, PRESIDENT OF
HIS MAJESTY'S COUNCIL IN VIRGINIA¹

Sir

Fowey [York River] May 4, 1775

I have this morning received certain information that his Excellency the Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, is threatened with an attack at day break this morning, at his palace in Williamsburg, And have thought proper to send a detachment from his Majesty's ship under my command, to support his Excellency, therefore strongly pray you to make use of every endeavour to prevent the party from being molested and attacked, as in that case I must be under a necessity to fire upon this town.

From

GEORGE MONTAGUE

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, May 6, 1775. Nelson's place of residence was Yorktown.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU,
COMMANDING¹

May 1775

York S S W Gloucester Point No off shore 1/2 a Mile

Thursday 4. at 3 A M a detachment of seamen under Lieutenant Sandys, And the Party of Marines under their officer were sent to assist the Governour as some insurgents threatened to attack him

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *Magdalen*, HENRY COLINS,
COMMANDING¹

May 1775

Moord off York Town York River Virginia

Thursday 4th A M an express came from Lord Dunmore on which we sent mid-shipman with several Men as did the *Fowey* got the Vessel clear and people to quarters sent the Sloop *Liberty* with the Master and several Men to Queens Creek i norder to Take the Governor and people on board in Case his retreat shou'd be cut of[f] on the York Road

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/3894.



Moon off fresh Breezes and Variable Sea and the Schooner, employed mending
 York Town the Fore Sail and a new spare Sails and an express came from
 York River on Sun more on water we sent midshipman with several
 Virginian men as the Forey got the vessel clear and people to quarters

Sir We sent the Sloop Liberty with the Master and several
 men to Queens Creek in order to take the Governor and people
 on board in case his retreat should be cut off on the York River
 Read the Articles of war &c to the Crew

(Top) John Murray, Fourth Earl of Dunmore. By Sir Joshua Reynolds, 1765. (Bottom) HMS
 Magdalen log entries, May 4-5, 1775.

5 May

TIMOTHY LANGDON TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

To the Honorable Congress now sitting for the Province of Massachusetts Bay—
The petition of Timothy Langdon Humbly sheweth—

That upon the second day of May instant a Committee of Safety for ten towns in the County of Lincoln met at Pownalborough, and amongst other matters took under consideration the expediency of removing the Kings masts, being in the dock in Georgetown, when it was unanimously voted that it was inexpedient to remove them—

That on the fourth day of May instant a meeting of the Committies of Inspection for a Number of towns in the County of Lincoln was held in Georgetown & after duly considering of all matters respecting the Kings masts were of opinion that all persons be forbid to work upon said masts, or aid in any manner in fitting them for the Kings use—That Edward Parry Esqr who had procured those masts more than a year since had promised the Committee that no person should ship those masts for him but that they should remain in the Dock in Georgetown – The committies of Inspection where then of opinion that it was inexpedient to remove the masts from the dock

That while the Committies of Inspection were met Colln Samuel Thompson of Brunswick in the County of Cumberland appeared with twenty armed men & when he had heard of the result of the Committies he seized upon the Body of Edward Parry Esqr & kept him in Custody 'till he gave bonds in two thousand pounds to tarry in this town till the pleasure of the Congress shall be known respecting him, and also obliged the said Edward to pay for the Victuals & drink of him the said Thompson & his men, amounting to the sum of 42s L M—

That the said Edward Parry has ever behaved himself as a peaceable member of society, & he declared to the committies that had he have known there was an order of Congress respecting the masts he would not have concerned himself with them.

Wherefore your petitioner at the request of, & as Clerk to the Committies of Inspection humbly prays the Honorable Congress that they woud take the matters of fact above stated, under consideration, & that orders be sent to Messrs Dummer Sewell & Jordan Parker the Bondsmen for said Parry that he the said Parry may be released from his Confinement & they the said Dummer & Jordan released from their bond And your petitioner as in Duty bound shall ever Pray &c
Georgetown May 5th 1775
Tim^o Langdon

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 10, 11, 11a.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE HONBLE ENOCH FREEMAN ESQR DATED
FALMOUTH MAY 5 1775 – ” ¹

We have lately heard that the Penobscott Indians are highly exasperated at Capt [Thomas] Goldthwaite, for suffering the Tender to dismantle the Fort there, and carrying off the Powder; and Truck Trade stopt, as we are informed; and that there was a Number of Men round about there, going to take Goldthwaite for delivering up the Fort, into their Custody, but what they intend to do with him I

dont hear. Perhaps it would be prudent for the [Provincial] Congress to send down there, and secure the Indians in our Interest, by keeping the Truck Trade open Supplying them Powder, or any other Method in their Wisdom, upon mature Consideration they may think best: A hint on this head is enough.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Canceaux*, HENRY MOWAT, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Moored in Falmouth Harbor, Casco Bay

Friday 5 at Noon saw a number of People under Arms in the Town, hove the spring on the Cables broadside to the Town.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4136.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

In Provincial Congress – Watertown May 5th 1775

On a motion made by Capt McCobb, that some measures might be taken to preserve a Number of large Masts, Plank &c now lying in Kennebec River, and to prevent their being carried to Hallifax, where they might be appropriated to the injury of this Country –

Ordered – That the Consideration thereof be referred to the Committee of Safety & that Capt McCobb be desired to attend the said Committee & give them all the information he can relative thereto –

[Sam^l Freeman Secry P.T.]

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Off Castle William Island [Boston Harbor]

Friday 5 From 1 to 2 o'Clock P M the Rebels came down on the Point & fired several shot; at which we discharged five Swivels & dispersed them.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO THOMAS & ISAAC WHARTON, PHILADELPHIA
MERCHANTS ¹

Gentlemen, New London May 5th 1775

I wrote you by Colo [Eliphalet] Dyarr [Dyer] and Mr [Silas] Dean (our Colony Deligates to the Contential Congress) Desireing you would let them have what Money they should have Occasion for, to the Amount of Four or five Hundred Pounds Since that I received Your Favour by the Post and Am Sorry to hear You Could not Procure the Lead – and Observe Your Saying that Melasses was in Demand I now Send George Champlin in the Brigg *Nancy* with a Cargoe Consisting of Two Hundred and Sixteen hogsheads Twenty Six Terses and Four Barrels of which Thirteen hogsheads five Terses and One Barrel is Ventures, the Remainder is Cargoe which may be More, if You can Send me Some Money in half Joes by Capt Chappell it will be Agreeable. I have now a Cargoe of Extra Good St Domingo Sugars in Store if they would Answer I would Send Chappell

with a Load as Soon as he Returns, And, if Melasses Keeps up Shall Ship More, Unless Prevented by the Confusion of the present Times—I can tell You no News our Troops in the Neighbourhood of Boston are in good Spirits and Are forming Themselves into Order as fast as possible, when Anything Transpires from the Congress beg You'l be so kind as to Communicate it for I Really do not know what Plan to Follow, or what to Do with my Vessels You must Send the Brigg Back in Ballast have not to add but am [&c.]

Nath^{e1} Shaw Jun^r

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] May 5 [1775]

An Association has been preparing for several days, and great Pains taken by the Friends of Govt to prepare the principal people in Town for signing it purporting their Adherence to the King & Parl[iamen]t, that they put themselves under the Protection of the Men o' War & Gen [Thomas] Gage or the Kings Troops, that they will not take part with the Provincial Army &c. &c. &c.; This is enforced by an Intimidation of Confiscation of Estates or being declared Rebels. But an insuperable objection arises which the Tories have not yet solved, viz, that if we withdraw from the Colony Union, they will withdraw all Communication – nor bring us Wood, Flour, & Provisions. The Tories say the Men o' War will send their Cutters and oblige others to bring us these Things – but the p[eo]ple know it is out of the Navy's power. And so the matter rests at present. A Neutrality & Stillness is the most they can effect by all Acts of Intimidation –

1. Stiles, II, 57, LC.

HENRY REMSEN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED, TO COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE AT NEWPORT ¹

Gentlemen

New York May 5th 1775

At a time when the most vigorous exertions are absolutely necessary for the defence of American Liberty against the depredations of ministerial Power; and the blood of our brethren in the Masachusetts has been actually shed, for daring to maintain the rights of Englishmen: the Inhabitants of this City and County have in the most explicit manner (as you may perceive by the inclosed Association) resolved to stand and fall with the freedom of the Continent –

We are confident that our Constituents are sincere in the strong assurances they have given us, that while we continue in Office they will be guided by our advice and direction. We have thought it necessary to Advise the withholding supplies from the British Fisheries on the American coasts, and to cease all exports to those Colonies which at this alarming Juncture refuse to unite in the cause; – The expediency of this measure is too evident to need elucidation, and will doubtless procure us many hearty advocates in Britain; besides which we have resolved to withhold all provisions and necessaries for the Army and Navy at Boston –

Our late committee of Observation thought proper to recommend the appointment of a provincial Congress; in consequence of which, our constituents

have chosen 21 Deputies to meet at this City on the 22d instant, Those, who may be appointed for that purpose in the Other Counties of this Colony – For your farther satisfaction on these Matters, we beg leave to refer you to the inclosed papers, to request you to communicate the Substance of this Information to your next neighbours, and to Assure you that in our department we shall watch incessantly for the publick Safety –

By order of the Committee I am [&c.]

Henry Remsen, Dpy Chairman

1. PML.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAPTN JAMES MONTAGU OF THE *King's fisher* [TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES]. DATED NEW YORK, MAY 5TH. 1775.”¹

Since my last of the 26th ultimo, Mr. Delancey of the 18th. Regiment of Dragoons, and Doctor [Myles] Cooper President of the Colledge, were Obligated to come onboard here for Protection, and as I expect more Friends to Government will be Obligated to do the same, must beg You will be pleased to give me an Order to bear all such as Supernumeraries.

The Committee has come to a Resolution not to suffer any Provisions to be sent to Boston, by much ado, have got a Supply this Day, it being taken out of the Contractors Vessel twice by the Mob. As I can not get any Stores here of any kind, request You will Order the different Stores as inclosed to be forwarded for which will take care to send proper Receipts.

As the People are all up in Arms here, since the Accounts from Boston, of the Skirmish between the Regulars & Provincials, think a reinforcement of Shipping Necessary.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

ROBERT EDEN, GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND, TO LORD DARTMOUTH¹

My Lord

Annapolis 5 May 1775.

I have the Honor of acknowledging the Receipt of your Lordships circular Letter of the 3rd March, and the Parliamentary Resolves and shall do all in my Power to promote in this Province the much to be desired End therein recommended to my Attention. Sorry I am, my Lord, to see a continuance of this unnatural Dissension betwixt Great Britain and Her Colonies – but the Time is not far distant, I hope, when Peace and Harmony will be restored and Confidence re-established on a permanent Basis – The Continental Congress is to meet on Wednesday next at Philadelphia, I need not inform your Lordship how impossible it would be for me to prevent Delegates from hence attending – The Attempt would have been vain, and only have sent them thither in ill Humour – On the Contrary, I think I can affirm that the Delegates of Maryland (or a very great Majority of them) go from hence fully determined to do all in their Power to bring about a Reconciliation. The proceedings of the Provincial Convention, which has been sitting these last ten Days and broke up Yesterday, have been conducted with great Temper and Moderation considering the general Spirit of the Times, and that, at the beginning of their Deliberations, they received the

alarming Account from the Northward of a total Overthrow of His Majesty's Forces, which was generally believed by them, and which I could no otherwise contradict, (not having received particulars) than by declaring that, to me, as a military Man of some Experience, the Accounts varied so, and were all of them so replete with Absurdities, that, without taking the Improbability into Consideration, and the torpid State they must presume the General and Admiral to be in, it could not but be in great part false, and I am happy that it has turned out so, and hope that what has passed, and a Cessation of further Hostilities, may induce the Congress immediately to recommend it to the several Colonies, by their Delegates, to make proper Applications respectively for the Redress of the Grievances they Complain of, after the mode pointed out in Your Lordships Letter, and the Parliamentary Resolve – I shall have the Honor of inclosing the published proceedings of the Convention here, and the Instruction given to the Delegates, as also our Yesterdays and a Philadelphia Paper, which contains the same and some of the absurd Accounts; that has been received from the Northward.

Being well assured that the Lower House would not proceed upon any Business before the Meeting at Philadelphia, the Assembly stands prorogued by Advice of the Council to the 5th of June, and when they Meet, I ardently wish and hope to be enabled to transmit to Your Lordship, such dutifull Applications as His Majesty has been graciously pleased to declare his Readiness to accept, and agreeable to the Resolve of the House of Commons, and shall impatiently hope for, and most sincerely rejoice at, their happy Effect.

I have made it my indispensable duty to give the utmost Attention to preserve peace and good Order within this Government, in which it gives me pleasure to think I have not been unsuccessful – Since my Return I have not slept twice out of this City where I found Disorder had been rather too active during my short Absence. I cannot in the least, Consistently with that Duty to His Majesty, which will ever govern my Conduct, think, at this Time of Trouble and Danger, of abandoning my Post on account of my private Affairs in England – But, I hope, when Tranquility is restored, His Majesty will not be displeased at my availing myself of the gracious Indulgence I had the Honor of soliciting on that Head when in England, and your Lordship may rely on my exerting myself to the utmost in promoting the Accomplishment of Our Gracious Sovereigns ardent Wishes to see a Reconciliation of the unhappy Differences that have given His Majesty so much Concern. That His Majesty may long continue to reign in Peace and Tranquillity restored, is the heartfelt Wish of My Lord [&c.]

Rob^t Eden.

1. MdHS Transcript from PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5.

BILL OF LADING FOR THE SHIP *Peggy*, WILLIAM BARRON, MASTER ¹

Bill of Lading for Flour, Corn, Wheat and Pig Iron on Board the *Peggy* Captain Wm Barron a[t] Maryland

Shipped in good Order and well conditioned by Archibald Buchanan in and upon the good Ship called the *Peggy* whereof is Master for the present Voyage Willm Barron and now riding at Anchor in the Harbour of Baltimore and bound for Cork for Orders, to Say, Thirteen hundred and Eighty Barrels of flour Three

Bill of Lading for Flour, Corn, Wheat and
 Pig Iron on Board the Peggy Captain
 Wm Barron of Maryland }
 "Shipped in good Order and"
 "were conditioned by Articles

"Barron in and upon the good Ship called the Peggy whereof is
 "Master for the present Benjamin Willoughby Barron and now residing at
 "Anchor in the Harbour of Baltimore and bound for Cork for
 "Orders, to say, Thirteen hundred and Eighty Barrels of Flour
 "Three hundred and forty five Bushels of Indian Corn, Forty
 "Bushels of Wheat in Sacks, and Fifteen Tons of Pig Iron
 "being marked and numbered as in the Margin and are to be
 "delivered in the like good Order and well conditioned at the
 "aforesaid Port of Cork (the Danger of the Sea only excepted)
 "or to the Order of Messrs Wallace, Davidson & Johnson or to
 "their Assigns as they paying Freight for said goods as
 "Back of Bill of Lading, with Tonnage with Tonnage and
 "Averages accustomed, In Witness Whereof the said Master or
 "Owner of the said Ship hath affixed to three Bills of Lading
 "all of his Tenor & Date the one of which three Bills being
 "accomplished the others to Stand Void Dated at Baltimore
 "May 5th 1775."

William Barron

Bill of lading, ship Peggy, May 5, 1775.

Hundred and forty five Bushels of Indian Corn, Forty Bushels of Wheat in Sacks, and fifteen Tons of Pig Iron being marked and Numbered as in the Margin and are to be delivered in the like good Order and well Conditioned at the aforesaid Port of Cork (the Danger of the Seas only excepted) Or to the Order of Messrs Wallace, Davidson & Johnson or to their Assigns he or they paying freight for said Goods as P back of Bill of Lading, with Primage and Average Accustomed, In Witness Whereof the Master or Purser of the said Ship hath Affirmed to three Bills of Lading all of this Tenor & Date the one of which three Bills being Accomplished the others to Stand Void Dated in Baltimore May 5th 1775.

William Barron

[Endorsement on back of bill of lading]

It is agreed between the Master of the within mention'd Ship and the Freighter Archibald Buchanan that he shall proceed immediately to Cork to the Orders of Messrs Wallace Davidson and Johnson that if he discharges his Cargo there he shall receive for the Flour five Shillings Sterling p Bushell Freight for the wheat and Corn, One Shilling Sterling per Bushell and for the Pigg Iron Two Shillings and Six pence Sterling for Primage, (no freight to be paid for Iron); if he proceeds to Bristol or Liverpool an additional freight of 5d p Bushell and 1d Sterling p Bushell if to London 9d Sterling p Bushell and 2d p Bushell if he should be ordered to any Part of the Streights, the Customary Freights the said Ship shall lay 40 Hours for orders in Cork any time she may be detained longer than that Day 50s Sterling p day for every day after and wherever she may discharge Twenty running Days to be allowed for that purpose, the above Demurrage for every day she may be detained after Witness our hand May 5th 1775

William Barron

Archibald Buchanan

[Endorsed]

Received May 6th 1775 from Archibald Buchanan, sixty one pounds Sixteen Shillings and ten pence Sterling in Part of the within freight

William Barron

1. Champlin Papers, I, RIHS.

AN ANONYMOUS LETTER TO ALEXANDER PURDIE ¹

Mr. Purdie

Williamsburg, May, 5 [1775]

PLEASE to inform the publick, that the *Mary*, Capt. [James] Miller, now loading in York river, is partly owned by Mr. John Wilkinson of London, who is likewise owner of two ships, the *Lion* and *Brilliant*, that formerly loaded in Virginia; which two ships the said Mr. Wilkinson has let to the Ministry, to carry troops to Boston, to cut the throats of all the Americans.

Quere. Is it not incumbent on every friend of liberty, and his country, to refuse shipping a single hogshead of tobacco on board any ship belonging to such a bloody-minded man as Mr. Wilkinson? Would it not be as proper to send the

Mary back, in balast, as the *Virginia*? Her being chartered by another person cannot be any good objection to sending her away in ballast, since the charterer must have known of Mr. Wilkinson's crime before the *Mary* left London, and therefore has made himself *Particeps criminis*, an accessory to the guilt.

1. Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, May 5, 1775.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1775

Williamsburg, May 5.

Late on Wednesday night [May 3], Col. Carter Braxton arrived in town, from a number of armed people, all men of property, led by Patrick Henry, Esq; on their march for this city, from the counties of Hanover, New Kent and King William. The intent of their coming, we are well assured, is the general alarm spread over the country by the removal of the gunpowder from the publick magazine, and to secure the treasury from a like ca[ta]strophe; as also to seize upon the person of his Majesty's Receiver General (then in this city) till either the gunpowder was restored, or a sum of money paid down to its value. Next morning Col. Braxton returned, with the Honourable Richard Corbin's bill of exchange for 320 l. sterling; and at the same time, the inhabitants of this city engaging themselves to guard the publick treasury, the Gentlemen dispersed yesterday afternoon, and are returned to their respective homes, perfectly satisfied with the success of their expedition. They had proceeded as far as Doncastl's, about 15 miles from town, where they were encamped to the number of 150 men and upwards, all well accoutred, and had a very martial appearance.

As soon as his Excellency the Governour received intelligence of the above armed force coming down, he despatched a messenger to the *Fowey* man of war, now lying before York town, and by 10 o'clock yesterday morning a detachment of 40 sailors and marines belonging to that ship, under the command of Capt. Stretch, arrived at the place; they did not march through the main street, but were led through the governour's park.

The town of York, we are well informed, was threatened with a cannonade from his Majesty's ship *Fowey*, by her commander, if the inhabitants presumed to molest the troops in their landing, or on their march to this city. They are now at the palace; how long they will stay is uncertain.

Upwards of 100 of the citizens last night guarded the publick treasury, and patrolled the streets.

This morning a warrant was issued to search certain houses for arms, suspected to have been taken out of the magazine in this city, a considerable number being missing, but the officer, we hear, has not been able to find any.

The Right Honourable the Countess of Dunmore, with all the Governour's family, are now on board the *Fowey* man of war.

The *Rising Sun*, Peterson, from London, is arrived in York river. He left the Downs the 13th of March, in company with about 20 transports, who put into Spithead the 16th, to wait their final orders to proceed to Corke, to take in troops for America.

PROCLAMATION OF LORD DUNMORE, GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA ¹

By his Excellency the Right Hon. JOHN, Earl of Dunmore, his Majesty's Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia, and Vice Admiral of the same.

A PROCLAMATION

Virginia, to wit.

WHEREAS I have been informed from undoubted Authority, that a certain *Patrick Henry*, of the County of Hanover, and a Number of deluded Followers, have taken up Arms, chosed their Officers, and styling themselves an Independent Company, have marched out of the County, encamped and put themselves in a Posture of War; and have written and despatched Letters to divers Parts of the Country, exciting the People to join in their outrageous and rebellious Practices, to the great Terror of all his Majesty's faithful Subjects, and to open Defiance of Law and Government, and have committed other Acts of Violence, particularly in extorting from his Majesty's Receiver General the Sum of 330 £. under Pretence of replacing the Powder I thought proper to order from the Magazine, whence it undeniably appears, that there is no longer the least security for the Life and Property of any Man. WHEREFORE I have thought proper, with the Advice of his Majesty's Council, and in his Majesty's Name, to issue this my Proclamation strictly charging all Persons, upon their allegiance, not to aid, abet or give Countenance to the said *Patrick Henry*, or any other persons concerned in such unwarrantable Combinations, but on the contrary to oppose them and their Designs by every Means, which Designs must, otherwise, inevitably involve the whole Country in the direful Calamity, as they will call for the Vengeance of offended Majesty and the insulted Laws, to be exerted here, to vindicate the constitutional Authority of Government.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Colony, in Williamsburg, the fifth Day of May, 1775, and in the 15th year of his Majesty's reign.

DUNMORE.

GOD SAVE THE KING

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, May 13, 1775.

6 May

DUMMER SEWALL TO PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Georgetown May 6th 1775.

To the Honorable Congress of the Province of the Macechussets Bay,
Gent – The Committees of Inspection of Georgetown Woolwich have Mett & Resolved that it was not Expediant to moove the Masts lying in the Dock in Georgetown that Edward Perrey Esqr had Contracted for, inasmuch as he Declard he would not Ship said Masts nor hew them – The Committees of Safaty from ten Towns in the County of Lincoln Met & Resolved that it was not

Expediant to Moove said Masts or Injury Edward Parry Esqr – Notwithstanding, Colo [Samuel] Thomson of Brunswick thought otherwise, and hath taken said Perrey Prisoner, & Declard he would Moove the Masts or Destroy them, so that the said Perrey was Obliged to get Bondsmen of two Thousand Pounds that he would not Depart Georgetown or Ship sd Masts by him self or any other or write to any Officer in the Navy or Army till the Will & Pleasure of the Congress should be made known to Messrs Dumr Sewall & Jordan Parker who a[re] Bound for sd Perrey: he the sd Colo Obliged the said Parry to pay 42/ Cost – I therefore Humbly Pray that your Will may be made known to the said Dummer & Jorden, as soon as may be that the said Perrey may be releived & the Bondmen Liberated their large Bonds –

I am your Honnours Harty Freind & Humble Servent

Dum^r Sewall

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 28.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Canceaux*, HENRY MOWAT, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

Moored in Falmouth Harbor, Casco Bay

Saturday 6 Country People under Arms – kept the Crew under Arms day and night.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4136.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1775

Providence, May 6

Mr. John Brown, of this place, merchant, whom we mentioned in our last to have been taken in a packet boat, and sent to Boston, has been released by the Admiral and General and returned here on Wednesday night [May 3].

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] May 6 [1775]

This day another Man o' War Capt. Lindley ² came here, so we have now three ships here – tho it is said that the *Rose* Man o' War Capt. [James] Wallace is called away.

1. Stiles, II, 58, LC.

2. The sloop *Falcon*, Captain John Linzee, whose journal for May 6, 1775, reads, "At Noon working into Rhode Island Harbour . . . at 2 P M Came too in Rhode Island Harbr. Brentons Point WNW Rhode Island Church East." PRO, Admiralty, 51/336.

JAMES BEEKMAN TO PIERCE & BROWN, MERCHANTS OF BRISTOL, ENGLAND ¹

[Extract]

[New York] May 6, 1775

Per Captain Jones

I wrote you 21st March last since which have Received yours of 25th February . . . Captain John Walker, who is now going on the same Voyage, the freight of which shall be paid you, my Brother and Self intended to have loaded our Brigg on our own Account had it not been for the unhappy Situation of our

Public Affairs, for which reason we have not thought proper to export any Provisions; I make no doubt that before this reaches your hands, you must have heard of the Action that happened near Boston between the regulars and the Provincials . . . the General Committees of this City and Philadelphia have agreed not to supply the Army or Navy with any Provisions, whilst there is the least appearance of Hostilities in our Borders. There seems to be almost total Stagnation of every kind of Business, at this alarming period, all Ranks of people are preparing against a similar attack, and for this purpose are providing themselves with arms &c. and are consulting the means of our common safety . . .

I expected to have made you full Remittance in due time, but fear I shall be prevented, the Commerce of the Northern Colonies being now at a Stand, and as the Grand Continental Congress are to Meet at Philadelphia the 10th Instant it is imagined that they will put a total stop to all foreign Trade, which will disenable our Merchants to make any Remittances Home, untill we receive Restitution of our former just and unalienable Rights and Privileges which is the ardent desire of all. and of none more than [myself].

1. White, ed., *Beekman Papers*, II, 898. Letters of the same date expressing similar sentiments were written to Fludyer, Marsh, Hudson and Streatfield and Cooke & Ralph, British merchants, and on May 30 to B. Pomeroy & Sons, London. *Ibid.*, 698, 699, 756-758, 948. Beekman in his letter to Fludyer, *et al.*, wrote

" . . . the General Committees of this City and Philadelphia have come under an Agreement not to supply the Army or Navy with any Provisions or Stores, whilst there is even an Appearance of Hostilities in our Borders. Which we sincerely wish may be speedily removed, and Peace, Harmony, and a good Understanding may take place on equitable, permanent Foundations, and may ever distinguish Britain and America, and thus continue 'til Time has run his Round.

"Upon calm Deliberation, and serious dispassionate Reflection, it is really distressing that from the hasty Resolves of the Majority of the British Parliament, without hearing the Petitions from North America (as the Lords Protest sets forth) should be the Occasion of all such fatal Consequences as have happened and are likely to happen between us; and unless seasonably redressed may prove the Ruin of the whole Empire. Who would have imagined that this Contest would have so soon terminated into an unnatural Civil War, and caused the Effusion of so much Blood? The Prospect is truly melancholy, when the Brother takes away the Brothers Life. And yet such times America now sees and feels! Tho' sure I am, that his Majesty has not more firm and loyal Subjects than in his Dominions in North America, who will support his Crown and Dignity in a constitutional manner at the Risque of their Lives and Fortunes. But it is impossible that freeborn Englishmen, as we are, (instead of being taxed by our legal Representatives as formerly) should now submit to Parliamentary Taxations, without giving up our Title to Freedom, and becoming Vassals and Slaves. Nothing more is necessary for a happy Accommodation, but a Revival of the good old English Constitution, which has always produced such mutual Blessings."

* * *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, MAY 6, 1775

Philadelphia, May 6.

Yesterday evening arrived here Capt. [Peter] Osborne, from London, in whom came passenger, Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Agent for Massachusetts government and this province.

JOURNAL OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ¹

[Philadelphia] May 6, 1775

The House met, pursuant to Adjournment, being acquainted that with Captain [Peter] *Osborne*, who arrived Yesterday, came Passenger *Benjamin Franklin* Esq; late Agent for this Province in *London*.

Resolved N.C.D. That the said *Benjamin Franklin* Esq; be, and he is hereby added to the Deputies appointed by this House on the Part of *Pennsylvania*, to attend the Continental Congress expected to meet on the 10th Instant, in this City.

1. Samuel Hazard *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives* (Philadelphia and Harrisburg, 1852–19–), 8th series, vol. VIII, 7231. Hereafter cited as Hazard *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, Saturday, May 6, 1775

Williamsburg, May 6.

A few nights ago some people privately entered the public magazine in this city and took a great number of guns, cartouch boxes, swords, canteens, &c. for which his Excellency the Governor has ordered a diligent search to be made.

The town of York being somewhat alarmed by a letter from Capt. [George] Montague, commander of his Majesty's ship the *Fowey*, addressed to the Hon. Thomas Nelson, Esq; President of his Majesty's Council in Virginia; ¹ and a copy of said letter being procured, a motion was made, that the copy should be laid before the committee, and considered.

The committee, together with Capt. Montague's letter, taking into consideration the time of its being sent, which was too late to permit the President to use his influence, had the inhabitants been disposed to *molest and attack* the detachment; and further considering that Col. Nelson, who, had this threat been carried into execution, must have been a principal sufferer, was, at that very moment, exerting his utmost endeavours in behalf of Government, and the safety of his Excellency's person, unanimously came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, that Capt. Montague, in threatening to fire upon a defenceless town, in case of an attack upon a detachment, in which said town might not be concerned, has testified a spirit of cruelty unprecedented in the annals of civilized times; that, in his late notice to the President, he has added insult to cruelty; and that, considering the circumstances, already mentioned, of one of the most considerable inhabitants of said town, he has discovered the most hellish principles that can actuate a human mind.

Resolved, that it be recommended to the inhabitants of this town, and to the county in general, that they do not entertain or shew any other mark of civility to Capt. Montague, besides what common decency and absolute necessity require.

Resolved, that the Clerk do transmit the above proceedings to the public printers to be inserted in the Virginia gazettes.

(true copy.)

WILLIAM RUSSELL, Clk. Com.

We hear from York town that in consequence of Captain Montague's letter to the President, many of the inhabitants were so much alarmed that they immediately removed their families and effects into the country.

1. See George Montagu to Thomas Nelson, May 4, 1775.

JAMES PARKER TO CHARLES STEWART ¹

[Extract]

[Norfolk] 6th May 1775

You would observe by the paper sent Mr. Elusly that Ld. Dunmore had ordered the power out [of] the Magazine at Williamsburg on board the *Magdalen* schooner. This has occasioned a great deal of blustering. We hear of 2000 men coming from Fredericksburg headed by James [sic! Hugh] Mercer, and as many from Hanover. There was a few men got together about Fredericksburg not however a tenth part of the report, and Young Man[n] Page came down to know the truth of matters. The speaker went that way to the Grand Congress to quiet the minds of the people, and [the] thick headed treasurer who finds it more difficult to extinguish a flame than kindle it, is in a terrible panic, writing letters all over the country to prevent these meetings. Williamsburg did well enough for the seat of government during the golden age; it will not do now, it should be here or some place where a ship can go. What can a governor do without a little force? No man can I believe make better shift than ours on such an occasion, like Charles XII he has fortified his House, with several guns at the windows, cut loop-holes in the Palace, and has plenty of small arms. His Lady and familie are on board the *Fowey* at York . . . It is suspected the patriots intended that powder for their friends in Boston.

1. "Letters from Virginia, 1774-1781," *The Magazine of History* (New York, March 1906), III, 158, 159. Stewart (1725-1797), former Surveyor General of Customs in North America, had retired to Edinburgh. Parker, a merchant, was his Virginia correspondent.

7 May (Sunday)

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO MAJOR ISAAC HAMILTON ¹

Sir,

Boston 7th May 1775

I have received no account from you, tho' from many accounts brought here, of the Commotions in New York - you must be in a very critical situation. I would have you consult with the Lieut. Governor what is best for you to do; It appears to me at this distance, that it would be a proper measure, that the five companies, should go on board the *Asia*; on which subject you will speak to Captain [George] Vandeput. I am Sir &c.

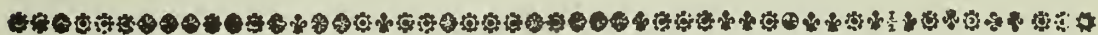
Thos Gage

To Major Hamilton of the 18th or R.R. of Ireland.

1. *Colden Papers*, VII, 293.

LORD NORTH'S SOLILOQUY.

A PLAGUE take that Boston port act, and all the Bostonians---those obstinate people will be my downfall---those puritannical rascals will be my ruin---the public at home now perceive the drift and consequences of that act, and think it endangers their own freedom and safety---the merchants already feel the bad effects of it, and murmur greatly- the cry is strong against me---I shall be hunted down---I was afraid of that d---n'd act at first--it was none of mine--I was not the father of it--I did not beget it; -I only supported it according to the directions of the closet--It is confounded hard, that I must be responsible for obeying the Commands of the Thane--I should have been turned out if I had not.--But hold,--let me consider I shall be dismissed now if I complain--I must not recant--I must proceed let the consequences be what they will.--If those stubborn people cannot be cajoled, they must be forced -we must compel them to submit--more soldiers must be sent,--but how shall we prevent the desertion of them?--We must send the third regiment of guards--they are a tried corps--we may surely depend upon them.--It will cost a great sum to send forces over sufficient to subdue the obstinacy of these rebellious Americans;--the people of England will grumble to pay new taxes for such a purpose -but I need not regard their grumbling--they have no spirit--I wish the people of New-England had no more.--I am sure of carrying what I please in the House, aye, and out of the House too --I have totally conquered all opposition at home; -I must do the same abroad.--That which gives me the most uneasiness, is the haughty menacing behaviour of the Spanish Court.--Should Spain prevail upon the French to join with her in breaking the peace, it would put a stop to all the fine projects of our Cabinet.--We must persuade France to keep the peace, let it cost what it will--a French war must, at all events, be prevented--for should that happen, we should never be able to compel the colonies to a proper obedience--and it shall be prevented, if god hath the same influence in France as it hath in England.--We must force the Americans to submit by fire and sword, and for which we must select such officers for the conducting this affair, as will obey the private orders of the Cabinet.--We must also raise some regiments of Papists in Canada---they may also recruit our army there---they will be glad to cut the throats of those heretics, the Bostonians. ---A Popish army is by much the fittest for our purpose---they will obey the commands of the crown without any hesitation---they have been trained up in principles of passive obedience, and we may be assured they will not desert---This must be my way---it will answer my end---it will be relished by the Cabinet---and I shall keep my place.



JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *St. Lawrence*, LIEUTT. JOHN GRAVES,
COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 In Boston Harbour.

Sunday 7 Appointed to Command His Majs Schooner *St Lawrence* by order from Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves. went on board and took the Command of the Said Schooner accordingly alongside Hancock's Wharf in Boston Harbour, being a New Vessel just purchased.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

2. The *St. Lawrence* was immediately ordered to Halifax for outfitting, and did not return to Boston until July 17, 1775.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO LIEUTENANT THOMAS GRAVES, HIS
MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *Diana* ¹

By Samuel Graves, Esq., Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels employed, and to be employed, in the River St Lawrence, &c.

Whereas I have received information that a Vessel is arrived at Marblehead with a very considerable quantity of money on board from a Spanish wreck, which must by all means be prevented from falling into the hands of the Rebels: You are therefore hereby required and directed to sail in his Majesty's Schooner, under your command, to Marblehead, without a moment's delay of time, and bring the vessel into Boston Harbour with the money, or remove the money into the *Diana* without delay, and let the vessel follow you hither.²

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Preston*, at Boston, the 7th of May, 1775.

1. Force, comp., *America Archives*, 4th, II, 525; apparently found on board the *Diana* when taken on May 27, 1775.

2. By the time Lieutenant Graves reached Marblehead, Captain Thomas Bishop, of the *Lively*, had taken the money on board his ship. For further details see Graves to Stephens, June 14, 1775.

8 May

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 8th. [May, 1775]

General after Orders. – "As there are many Complaints of most scandalous drunkenness at this critical time among the Troops, that the Women of different Corps in defiance of all order, sell rum and other spiritous liquors to the Soldiers; it is the Comman'r in Chief's positive orders the Officers commanding Regts. examine into those Complaints; and those Women who do not pay obedience to Order to be *immediately* seized and put on board Ship." There was an order of this kind some time before, but was taken little notice of notwithstanding the word *immediately*, which a scarce a general Order has been without since we came to the Continent.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 44. The Lieutenant had penned in his Diary on New Year's Day 1775: "nothing remarkable but the drunkenness among the Soldiers, which is now got to a very great pitch, owing to the cheapness of the liquor, a man may get drunk for a Copper or two." *Ibid.*, 18.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, MAY 8, 1775

Philadelphia, May 8.

We hear from Williamsburg, the locks were taken from off the magazine, that the *Magdalen* Schooner is in York river, under the protection of the *Fowey* man of war, and that Lord Dunmore had fortified himself in the palace.

9 May

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Canceaux*, HENRY MOWAT, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Moored in Falmouth Harbor Casco Bay

Tuesday 9 Fresh breezes and Clear Wr AM Capt Mowat and Doctor Baillie went ashore to walk and were intercepted and taken Prisoners by some Armed Men. at 2 P M hove taught the Spring, the Ships Broadside to the Town, fired 2 Guns as Signals at 9 came on board the Captain and Doctor –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4136.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Cambridge] May 9, 1775

Voted, That Daniel Taylor, of Concord, be desired to send down to Cambridge, about sixty Oars for boats, from twelve to sixteen feet in length.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 753, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Off Castle William Island [Boston Harbor]

Tuesday 9 Saw several Rebels heard their Drum beat over Dorchester Neck at 8 P M called all hands to quarters Sent the Guard Boat round the Bay. at 1½ past 11 heard several Musquets fired, sent the Lieutenant to give them notice at the Fort.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 9th [May, 1775]

The *Glasgow* being by this time complete, in every thing but Men was ordered to relieve the *Nautilus* between Charles Town and Boston; the *Nautilus* to fall down the Harbour and with the *Otter* get ready for sailing: and the Admiral acquainted the General that he intended to send the *Nautilus* to Savannah in Georgia and the *Otter* to Virginia.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 83, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston May 9th 1775

Upon the receipt of your Excellency's Letter of the 30th Uto I directed a swift sailing Sloop to be fitted for carrying Dispatches, as your Excellency represents the communication between this and the other Colonies to be entirely stopped by Land—This Sloop is now compleat, and I shall keep her ready to depart at the shortest notice; and whenever your Excellency acquaints me that you have dispatches to convey which require expedition, I shall very readily send the Vessel with them. I have the honor to be with great respect and regard Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

1. Gage Papers, CL.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N. TO SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INHABITANTS OF NEWPORT ¹

(Copy)

Rose, Rhode Island May the 9th. 1775

Gentlemen I have received your Letter containing your Sentiments upon the present Alarming Crisis, and will transmit them to the Admiralty by the first Opportunity ² – it is my Duty and Inclination to give every Assistance and Protection in my Power to His Majesty's Loyal Subjects. I am, Gentlemen [&c.]

James Wallace

To Messrs Dudley, Rome, Hunter, &ca &ca &ca

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

2. See letter of May 1, 1775.

JAMES MADISON TO WILLIAM BRADFORD ¹

[Extract]

Virginia May 9th, 1775

We have lately had a great alarm here about the Governor's removing a large quantity of powder from our magazine and conveying it on board a ship of war: Not less [than] 600 men well armed and mounted assembled at Fredg. on this occasion, with a view to proceed to Wmsburg. [to] recover the powder & revenge the insult: The propriety of such a step was warmly agitated and weighty arguments adduced both for & against it: At length the advice of Peyton Randolph, Edm. Pendleton, Richd. H. Lee, and George Washington Esqrs. delegates for the Congress, to return home was complied with. The reasons however that induced these Gentlemen to give this advice did not appear satisfactory to Patrick Henry Esqr. another of our delegates whose sentiments were not known at Fredg. This Gentleman after the dispersion of the troops at the above named place under the authority of the committee of this County and at the head of an Independant Company undertook to procure redress, which he resolutely accomplished by taking of the King's Quit-rents as much money as would replace the powder which had been removed so far that it could not be come at. This affair has prevented his appearing at the Congress as early as his Colleagues, and has afforded me this opportunity of sending you a few lines. I expect his con-

duct as contrary to the opinion of the other delegats will be disapproved of by them, but it [has] gained him great honor in the most spirited parts of the Country and addresses of thanks are already presenting to him from different Quarters: The Gentlemen below whose property will be exposed in case of a civil war in this Colony were extremely alarmed lest Government should be provoked to make reprisals. Indeed some of them discovered a pusillanimity little comporting with their professions or the name of Virginia.

1. William T. Hutchinson and William M. E. Rachal, eds., *The Papers of James Madison* (Chicago, 1962), I, 144, 145. Hereafter cited as Hutchinson and Rachal, eds., *Madison Papers*.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS, LONDON ¹

[Extract]

Charles Town 9th May 1775

p *Juno* Capt Farrington

You may or may not have heard ere this shall reache you that the Sword of Civil War was drawn in the environs of Boston on the 19th April, there is no doubt of the fact but the Accounts which we have received are not clear . . . the New England Account will appear in the inclosed paper perhaps you have a more perfect one – if the Ministry will allow any thing like truth to be published –

the Committee here in which they have forced your Father to be Chairman are exerting their utmost abilities I hope for wice & good ends.–

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–1775, SCHS.

10 May

EDWARD PARRY TO LIEUTENANT HENRY MOWAT, COMMANDER OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Canceaux* ¹

[Extract]

George Town. May 10th 1775.

Sir I am very much obliged to you for your kind Letter of the 29th ult. p Lambert, which was intercepted and demanded with my other Letters &c at Brunswick by Samuel Thompson of that place and broke open, Copies of which have been industriously circulated thro' the Country by the different Committee men &c, several parts thereof being misconstrued or misunderstood by the illiterate – I should have answered your Letter sooner but did not know how to procure any safe conveyance – On the 4th inst Thompson attended by a number of Armed Men to the Amount of Forty or upwards insisted on my being his Prisoner, and to go with him; or give Bail Bond with two Securities in the Penal Sum of £ 2000 payable to the Provincial Congress, the condition of the Bond compelled to be given, is that I should be kept in safe Custody by my Sureties, until released by the Congress, – that I should not nor no one for or under me remove my Masts, Plank &c now here, nor write to any Officer of the Army or Navy for Protection, or against the Country – I prefer'd giving the Bond rather than to risk myself with him – A State of my Case has been sent to the Congress; who I hope will think it reasonable to release me; but such is the unfortunate Temper of the Times, that I am Apprehensive I shall be unable to proceed with my Business and fulfill

my Engagements for Halifax Yard for the present and I think it will be extremely hazardous for some time to attempt it, unless affairs take a Sudden Turn

I am with Great Respect Sir [&c.]

Edw^d Parry

Mr [John] Bernard is also under Bond, and in the same Situation.

There are some Reports spread here of an attempt to Surprize the *Canceaux*

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 29, 30.

EDWARD PARRY TO WILLIAM TYNG ¹

Dear Sir

George Town Kennebec May 10th 1775

I reced your favor of the 29th April by Lambert, which was intercepted by Thompson and broke open with my other Letters – I should have answered Capt Mowats kind Letter, but did not know how to convey it sooner – I beg you will deliver him the inclosed – I suppose you have heard of my being in Thompson's Clutches The Letter to Capt Mowat mentions the particulars – my best Compliments to Mrs Tyng & Mrs Ross &c – May God Send us peace and Good order again –

I am with great Respect, Dear Sir your obligd & assured friend & humble servt

Edw^d Parry

favd by Mr Ayers of Portsmo

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 31.

EDWARD PARRY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

Sir

George Town Kennebec River May 10th 1775

I beg leave to lay before you that Mr Samuel Thompson of Brunswick one of the Delegates of your Congress has attended by about Forty or upwards of His Minute Men &c Armed, restrained me from following my lawful Occupation, and has detained me here, and compelled a Bond to be given the 4th instant with two Securities for me in the penal Sum of £2,000. lawful money payable to you or the Heads of the Province for the time being that may be appointed by the People – The Condition of the Bond prevents me or any Person for or under me from removing certain Masts, Spars, Oak Plank &c that are now under my care in this River and procured for the Service of His Majesty's Navy – and that I should be kept in safe Custody here until I may be released by your Orders – he has also required that I shall not write to any Officer of the Army or Navy for Protection – He Grounds his pretences for these *Violences* to me by a Resolve of your Body (as he says) passed the beginning of April – The Subject matter of which as near as I can recollect is – “That Colo Samuel Thompson be appointed to notify certain Towns in the Eastward, that one Perry was gone down thither to Ship Masts Plank &c for the Dock Yard at Nova Scotia, and that he and they should use all possible and effectual means to prevent the same being done” –

And likewise the People &c I employ'd have been intimidated and influenced from carrying on their work to my great detriment by Persons who appear by their Conduct to place Reliance on your Approbation – I imagine you will not justify

but disavow these *injurious* proceedings – and I expect you will order without delay the Bond to be cancelled and myself released from my present confinement.

I am Sir Your very humble servant

Edw^d Parry²

To The President of the Delegates of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay assembled in Congress at Concord

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 32, 33.

2. Parry's petition reciting the same grievances is in Mass. Arch., 34.

ENOCH FREEMAN TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Falmouth May 10th 1775. –

To the Honble the Committee of Safety for the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in Cambridge

May it please your Honours –

We, the Committee of Correspondence in Falmouth wou'd beg leave to Represent to your Honours, the Situation and Circumstances of this Town and County; and if there is any Impropriety in our doing it, Your Candour will Excuse it –

The Alarming Attempt of Colln [Samuel] Thompson, to take the Ship *Can- ceaux*, Captn Henry Mowat Commander, now in this Harbour, has occasioned very great uneasiness in this Town, as it has a Tendency to bring on us certain Ruin, by the Admiral's resenting it in such a manner as to block up our Harbour before the Time. We have no Force to oppose or prevent it, no Fortifications, no Ammunition, no Cannon, and if Provisions are stopt from coming in here, The Town is ruined as well as the Country, which depends upon the Town for Supplies, of which, at present, there is a great Scarcity. – We think Coll Thompson's attempt was rash and Injudicious, if not unjustifiable, as we cant learn he had any Authority from You or the Congress; we are Sure it was contrary to yr will, and without any orders from his Superiour officers in the Militia, though Solicited for by him, and the People here Seemed to be laid under Contribution to Subsist his men –

We hope Care will be taken that every Attack upon our Enemies, through the Province, shall be conducted by proper officers, Orderly, Regularly, and with proper Authority, lest it should Occasion a civil War Among our selves – It is true, in defending our selves, which may be Sudden, Immediate and resolute opposition, in the best manner that can be Suddenly thought of, Should be adopted: but we are afraid, that if any number of men, at any Time, and in any Manner, may collect, together and Attack any thing or any Person, they Please, every Body may be in Danger. – *Sat verbum Sapienti* –

We are also concernd lest there Should a good Deal of Confusion arise, from a Number of our Men in the Country, possessing themselves of the Inlisting Papers lately printed, some calling themselves Colls, some Majors, Appointing their own officers, Adjutants, Chaplains, Chirurgeons, &c, &c, without having, as we can learn, any written orders for so doing : – for they Seem to contend already, who shall be Chief Officers; and they are uncertain whether the Men they Inlist, are

On a motion made and seconded, Ordered, That William Goodwin have orders to fetch a number of Boats from Charlestown, and likewise orders to press Teams for the same purpose.

Voted, That Mr. Watson be directed and empowered to remove to Cambridge the Boats now in Menotomy River, and to impress what Carriages may be necessary.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 753, 754, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Off Castle William Island [Boston Harbor]
Wednesday 10 at ½ past 4 A M saw about a hundred Rebels arm'd march
round Dorchester Neck . . . [P.M.] Several Rebels frequently
in sight on Dorchester Neck. Sent a boat on board the *Elizabeth*
[transport] to protect her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

STATEMENT OF DANIEL EGRY ¹

Daniel Egrý of Dartmouth Says that last Sabbath [May 7] a whale Man went thro' Robinsons hold, into the Sound Just at the Eastward lay 3 Tenders, who fired upon the Schooner the Master then ordered the Schooner about again & run into the hold, all the People then left the Vessel by the Masters orders the officer of a Barge then came on board and snapt his Pistol at the Master, which did not go off tho' well primed & all the rest of the Barge Crew cock't their pistols but were ordered by the Officer not to fire – the People of the 3 tenders swore they would have all the Stock on the Island, having forced the Tenants to give an Inventory thereof & intended to sieze five vessels to carry them off & pursued one Vessel which hove in sight – the Name of the Island is Nashon & owned by Mr. [James] Bowdoin suppose there is 3000 Sheep on the Island & a large Stock of Cattle it is supposed they intended to rob the several Islands near In which Islands it is supposed there was 10000 Sheep beside Cattle –
May 10. 1775—

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 46.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, DATED MAY 10 [1775]” ¹

Last Friday the *Falcon*, Captain [John] Lindsey [Linzee], took two sloops at Bedford, with intention of sending them to the Islands near the Vineyard, to carry from thence a parcel of sheep to Boston. The Bedford people resented this conduct in such a manner as to immediately fit out two sloops, with thirty men on board, and last Saturday retook them both, with fifteen men on board. In the action there were three of the men of war sailors badly wounded, one of whom is since dead. The other thirteen they immediately sent to Taunton Jail.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 608.

COMMITTEE OF WAR AT TICONDEROGA TO THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF
MASSACHUSETTS, WATERTOWN ¹

Ticonderoga May 11th [*sic*, 10] 1775

This is to certify that previous to Col. Benedict Arnolds arivel to the Forts Ticonderoga & Crown Point a Committee sent from the Colony of Connecticut furnished with Mony for the purpose of reducing and garisoning sd Forts had with the Assistance of 70 Men from the Massach[u]setts & from the N Hampshir Grants marched within a few Miles of Ticonderoga and this Morning at Day Brake took Possesin of sd Fort and have given the Command thereof into the hands of Col Ethen Allen & sd Arnold refuses to give up his Command which Causes much Defficalty sd Arnold not having inlisted one Man neither do we know that he has or can do it and as sd Committee have raised the Men and are still raising Supplies for the purpose of repairing sd Fort takeing the armed sloop and Defending this Country & sd Forts We think that sd Arnolds farther procedure in this Matter highly inexpedient both in regard to expence & Defence

James Easton
Epap. Bull
Edward Mott
Noah Phelps

Comtt of War for the Late Exspedition against Ticonderoga and Cowrn Point

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

ETHAN ALLEN'S ACCOUNT OF THE TAKING OF TICONDEROGA ¹

[May 10, 1775]

While I was wishing for an opportunity to signalize myself in its [my country's] behalf, directions were privately sent me from the then colony (now state) of Connecticut to raise the Green Mountain Boys, and, if possible, with them to surprise and take the fortress of Ticonderoga. This enterprise I cheerfully undertook; and, after first guarding all the several passes that led thither, to cut off all intelligence between the garrison and the country, made a forced march from Bennington, and arrived at the lake opposite to Ticonderoga on the evening of the ninth day of May, 1775, with two hundred and thirty valiant Green Mountain Boys and it was with the utmost difficulty that I procured boats to cross the lake. However, I landed eighty-three men near the garrison, and sent the boats back for the rear guard, commanded by Colonel Seth Warner, but the day began to dawn, and I found myself under a necessity to attack the fort, before the rear could cross the lake; and, as it was viewed hazardous, I harangued the officers and soldiers in the manner following

Friends and fellow soldiers: you have for a number of years past, been a scourge and terror to arbitrary power Your valor has been famed abroad, and acknowledged, as appears by the advice and orders to me, from the General Assembly of Connecticut, to surprise and take the garrison now before us. I now propose to advance before you, and, in person, conduct you through the wicket gate; for we must this morning either quit our pretensions

to valor or possess ourselves of this fortress in a few minutes; and, inasmuch as it is a desperate attempt, which none but the bravest of men dare undertake, I do not urge it on any contrary to his will. You that will undertake voluntarily, poise your firelocks.

The men being, at this time, drawn up in three ranks, each poised his firelock. I ordered them to face to the right: and at the head of the centre file marched them immediately to the wicket gate aforesaid, where I found a sentry posted, who instantly snapped his fusee at me: I ran immediately towards him, and he retreated through the covered way into the parade within the garrison, gave a halloo, and ran under a bomb-proof. My party who followed me into the fort, I formed on the parade in such a manner as to face the two barracks which faced each other.

The garrison being asleep, except the sentries, we gave three huzzas which greatly surprised them. One of the sentries made a pass at one of my officers with a charged bayonet, and slightly wounded him. my first thought was to kill him with my sword; but, in an instant, I altered the design and fury of the blow to a slight cut on the side of the head; upon which he dropped his gun, and asked quarter, which I readily granted him, and demanded of him the place where the commanding officer kept; he showed me a pair of stairs in the front of a barrack, on the west part of the garrison, which led up to a second story in said barrack, to which I immediately repaired, and ordered the commander, Captain Delaplace, to come forth instantly or I would sacrifice the whole garrison; at which the Captain came immediately to the door, with his breeches in his hand, when I ordered him to deliver me the fort instantly:

He asked me by what authority I demanded it.

I answered him, "In the name of the great Jehovah, and the Continental Congress."

The authority of the Congress being very little known at that time, he began to speak again; but I interrupted him, and, with my drawn sword over his head, again demanded an immediate surrender of the garrison; with which he then complied, and ordered his men to be forthwith paraded without arms, as he had given up the garrison: In the mean time some of my officers had given orders, and in consequence thereof, sundry of the barrack doors were beat down, and about one third of the garrison imprisoned, which consisted of the said commander, a Lieutenat Feltham, a conductor of artillery, a gunner, two serjeants, and forty-four rank and file; about one hundred pieces of cannon, one thirteen inch mortar and a number of swivels. This surprise was carried out in the gray of the morning of the tenth day of May 1775 . . .

Colonel Warner, with the rear guard, crossed the lake and joined me early in the morning, whom I sent off without loss of time, with about one hundred men, to take possession of Crown Point, which was garrisoned with a serjeant and twelve men; which he took possession of the same day, as also of upwards of one hundred pieces of cannon.

1. *A Narrative of the Captivity of Col. Ethan Allen* (Albany, 1814), 5–10.

WILLIAM McADAMS TO CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN ¹

Sir

N York May 10th 1775

I Received your favour of the third by Captain Webster, who will deliver this to you, I find That the meaning of the Restraint on provisions is that the Navy or Army shall not be Supplied at present either from this place or Philadelphia – From this Circumstance altho I have a large quantity of Bread now by me which was bought for the Contract, I Cannot Supply you with That, or any Species of provisions at present, I remain Yours &c.

W M^eAdams

1. Champlin Papers, NYSL.

Pennsylvania Gazette, WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1775

Philadelphia, May 10.

We hear from Charlestown, South-Carolina, that on the 21st of March, at night, about eight hundred stand of small arms, two hundred cutlasses, and all the cartouch boxes, fit for service, with several bundles of match and some flints, were taken out of the public armoury in the state-house; and on the same night the public powder magazine, built about four miles from the town, was broke open, and all the powder carried off, being about five hundred weight. The Governor has offered a reward of one hundred pounds sterling for apprehending the offenders.

Pennsylvania Journal, WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1775

Philadelphia.

By a Proclamation in the Carolina papers, we find, that the arms and powder in the public magazines in Charlestown, were removed in the night of the 21st of March, without the consent of the Governor, who is very angry.

G.C. TO VICE ADMIRAL WILLIAM PARRY ¹

Honour'd Sir

St Croix May 10th 1775.

By this opportunity I take leave to communicate that a combination is between this place & the Brittish Collonies of America. I am inform'd this day that they have Ship'd from this place to Norfolk in Virginia 42 Barrells of Gun Powder, & several pieces of Cannon Its a long time since I had the pleasure of seeing your Honr at my friend Admiral [Patrick] O'Hara's in London. he is now dead. I came here from Carolina and, intends soon to return. they have 36 Barrells more ready to Ship & 8 pieces of Cannon. I have wrote to Lord [Frederick] North relative to this matter, least my letter wou'd be opened & being under an arbitrary Government I am apprehensive to sign my Name. I live in Charles Town South Carolina where I wou'd be glad to execute any of your commands from whence I will sign my name in full, a line directed to G: C: at the Coffee house Charles Town South Carolina will come to hand I am Your Honours [&c.]

G:C,²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2. The identity of the writer as George Cummerford is contained in the letter of August 3, from Captain Henry Bryne to Vice Admiral James Young

11 May

“LETTER FROM FALMOUTH, MASS., [MAINE PROVINCE] TO A GENTLEMAN IN WATERTOWN, DATED MAY 11, 1775.”¹

Sir: It may not be disagreeable to you to have a more particular account of the solemn scene that has been acted here for two of three days past, than it can be expected common fame will give you.

Last Tuesday morning [May 9], Lieutenant Colonel [Samuel] Thompson, of Brunswick, with about fifty armed men, with each a small bough of spruce in his hat, and having a spruce pole, with a green top on it for a standard, landed on the back part of our Neck, at a place called Sandy Point, where is a thick grove of trees. In that place they lay, unknown to the people of the Town, seizing and detaining several persons that happened to pass that way, till about one o'clock, when Captain [Henry] Mowat, the Surgeon of his Ship, and the Reverend Mr. [John] Wiswel, taking a walk that way for their pleasure, were seized and made prisoners. As soon as the master of the ship (one Hogg) heard of it, he wrote to Colonel [Enoch] Freeman, that if Captain Mowat and the other prisoners were not delivered up in an hour or two, (I do not certainly know the time) he would lay the Town in ashes. You can hardly conceive the consternation, confusion, and uproar that immediately ensued. Our women were, I believe, every one of them in tears, or praying, or screaming; precipitately leaving their houses, especially those whose husbands were not at home, and widows hurrying their goods into countrymen's carts, never asking their names, though strangers, and carrying their children either out of Town, or up to the south end, according to the greater or less irritability of their nerves. Some persons bed-ridden, or in childbed, were hastily removed, with no small danger of their lives. Several gentlemen of the Town, who could attend it, and I among the rest, immediately repaired to Colonel Thompson's camp; and after obtaining leave of the advance guard, were permitted to speak with him. We endeavoured to persuade him to deliver up the prisoners, by all the rational arguments we could think of, but he appeared inflexible, and even furious. Here and there one in the Town (none but Tories however) were at first for rescuing the prisoners by our Militia; but the general voice of the Town was to observe a strict neutrality, excepting persuasive and arguments.

Colonel [Edmund] Phinney, of Gorham, Colonel of the Minute-Men, being in Town, and fearing a rescue, or for some other reason, sent out for his men, I suppose without asking the advice of any body; and soon afterwards sent word that they need not come in to Town. Night was coming on, and the weather cool and windy, which endangered the health of some of the gentlemen, at least in the open field. It was therefore agreed by Colonel Freeman and his advisers, at the desire of Mowat, and by the free consent of Thompson, that the company of Cadets should escort the party and the prisoners to Mr. [Brackett] Marston's, in order that a consultation might be further held there. The two companies remained embodied before the door. Colonel Thompson remained unwilling to deliver up the prisoners, insisting much that Divine Providence had thrown them into his hands, and that it was open and settled war between the Colonies

and Britain. But he was more and more convinced that the whole force of the Town was against him, and found himself disappointed of a reinforcement that he expected to meet him here; so that by about nine o'clock in the evening he was much cooled; and the prisoners giving their parole that they would deliver themselves into his hands at nine the next morning, General [Jedediah] Preble and Colonel Freeman pledging themselves for them, he consented to set them at liberty. Upon which Mowat having expressed his gratitude to the Town in strong terms, went aboard and dismissed a number of our people, who the master had, during the afternoon, caught in boats and made prisoners. But when Colonel Thompson's men found that he had given Mowat his liberty, they were hard to pacify. Not only Colonel Phinney's Minute-Men, but most of the Militia from Gorham, Scarborough, Cape Elizabeth, and Stroudwater, in the whole amounting, it is said to six hundred, came into Town before morning, highly enraged at Captain Mowat's being dismissed, and seemingly determined to destroy his ship. Wednesday morning, when it was found that Mowat would not deliver himself up, the Army took and made prisoners of General Preble and Colonel Freeman, threatening to treat them in the same manner as they would treat Mowat, if they had him. Even their children were not permitted to speak with them, and they had no dinner that day. All the officers of the companies then present agreed to resolve themselves into a Committee of War; and after some hesitation they admitted the officers of our companies on the Neck, into the Committee; in which Committee a vote was passed by a considerable majority, that Captain Mowat's ship ought to be destroyed. In the next place they appointed a Committee out of their number, to consider in what manner it should be done. This Committee have not yet reported as I can find; but they have proceeded to call men before them who were suspected of being Tories, to question them, to draw promises from them, and especially to draw money and provisions from them. The Reverend Mr. Wiswel delivered himself up very willingly, and seemed rather impatient till they had him with them; saying to some that passed by his door, he was ready to die at any time, as he knew he was in a good cause – the cause of the Church of England.

The Committee interrogated him concerning his political principles. He declared an abhorrence of the doctrine of passive obedience and non-resistance, and that he thought Great Britain had no right to tax American internally; but as to the late Acts of Parliament, he had not examined them, and did not choose to give his opinions concerning them.

Old Mr. [David] Wyer had a file of men sent after him, who, holding a pistol to his breast, forced him to go before the Committee; and when there he was interrogated whether he had said, "the Militia ought to rescue Captain Mowat?" to which he answered in the affirmative; also, whether he did not think it an imprudent speech? to which he answered, yes; also, whether he were of the same mind now? He answered, no, as matters are circumstanced; then whether he would say any thing again against the body of men in Town? He said, no. The Committee soon agreed to dismiss him, and one of them said he was not worth their notice. He thanked the gentlemen for their civility, made a low bow, and de-

parted. Captain Steward called to the crowd before the door, to make way for Mr. Wyer, and told them out of the window the Committee had dismissed him as unworthy of their notice.

Captain [Jeremiah] Pote was fetched before the Committee, without making any resistance, though he had made formidable preparations to defend himself. It is reported that the Committee made him give them, for the benefit of the body, about fifty Pounds, (old tenour,) in cash and provisions, and that they have bound him in a bond of two thousand Pounds, to appear at the Congress of the Province, and give an account of himself to them. They taxed General Preble some barrels of bread and a number of cheeses, and two barrels of rum for each company then in Town, which he readily gave them, Wednesday afternoon, in value about ten Pounds, lawful money. Wednesday evening they made out a bill of one hundred and fifty-eight Pounds, lawful money, against Preble and Freeman, to satisfy the body for their time and trouble in the expedition; but I hear they have dropped that demand.

Yesterday morning they entered the house of Captain [Thomas] Coulson, and they use it as a barrack. The men made so free with a barrel of New-England rum, which they found in the cellar, that some of them were quite, and others almost drunken.

Between meetings yesterday, Calvin Lombard, being raised with liquor, went down to the water side and fired a brace of balls at Mowat's ship, which penetrated deep in its sides. The fire was answered from a fuse on board, but with no aim to do execution. Captain Mowat immediately wrote to Colonel Freeman to deliver up Calvin, and to raise the militia to dispel the mob from the country, as he called them, assuring him that otherwise he must fire upon the Town. This threw the Town again into a panick, but we had, notwithstanding, a pretty full meeting in the afternoon.

Yesterday they hauled Captain Coulson's boat up to the house, where it remained till just now, three quarters after twelve, when near a hundred men hauled it up through the streets and into Captain [Moses] Pearson's back lot, down almost to the Cove. It is reported that Mowat sent word, or wrote on shore last evening, that he had bought that boat of Coulson, and paid for it, and that if it were not returned immediately, or speedily, he would fire upon the Town. He doubtless saw it hauled away just now, but as he has not fired as yet; and here I sit writing at my desk in the old place, being fully convinced that Mowat never will fire upon the Town, in any case whatever. My house is turned into a kind of barrack. Several have removed bedding and other goods into it. We are full at nights. I dont know why people think themselves as safe here, unless it be because my wife is not yet much affrighted.

This morning the Committee sent to Deacon [Benjamin] Titcomb for one hundred pounds of bread, who returned for answer that he had no bread but what he wanted for himself; but if the company would go out of Town immediately, he would give it to them. Colonel Phinney promised that he would do his utmost endeavour to get them out of Town to-day; therefore the bread was delivered.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Canceaux*, HENRY MOWAT, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

Moored in Falmouth Harbor Casco Bay

Thursday 11 the Town full of Armed Men threat'ning Destruction to the Ship,
and Plundering the Town – came onbd the Collector and
Minister ² for protection

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4136.

2. The Rev. John Wiswell and George Lyde Collector of Customs.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Lively*, ALEXANDER GRAEME,
COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

Moor'd in Marblehd Harbr

Thursday 11 at ½ past noon Capt. Bishop went onboard the *Diana* with 4
Boxes 1 Chest of Money & sailed for Boston.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Thursday, May 11, 1775. Noon

Information being made to this Congress that two Men-of-War, with Troops, had sailed from Boston to New-York,² with a design, as it is supposed, of frustrating a design of the inhabitants of that Colony and Connecticut, to secure the Arms and Ammunition now in the Fort at New-York.

Ordered, That Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, Colonel [James] Warren, and Col. [Benjamin] Lincoln, be a Committee to prepare a Letter to the Committee of Correspondence of New York, informing them of the sailing of the said Men-of-War, and inserting such articles therein, as will put the people upon their guard against any attempt that may be made against them by said Ships.

Ordered, That this Committee prepare said Letter, and forward it forthwith, without waiting to report to this Congress, said Committee laying before this Congress, as soon as may be, a copy of said Letter.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 799, 800, from Mass. Arch., vol. 31.2. Only one ship was ordered for New York at this time, the *Asia*, of 64 guns, which sailed for New York on May 8, 1775. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.COMMITTEE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS TO
COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION OF NEW YORK ¹

Gentlemen

Water Town May 11th 1775

We are directed by the Congress of this Colony, who are just informed that two Men of War, the *Asia* & another with three or four Companies of Troops on board sailed yesterday from Boston for your place, to give you the earliest Notice thereof –

It is supposed that they have orders to secure the Ammunition & military Stores in the Fort of your City &c & your noble Exertions in the common Cause have given the Congress Reason to think that a timely Information relative to

this Matter would be important to you – the post is now waiting, which prevents Us from indulging our Inclination of enlarging – We are respectfully Gentlemen

Elb^e Gerry
James Warren
Benjⁿ Lincoln
Commee of Congress

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 182.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 11 May 1775

The necessity for relieving some of the King's Ships to the Southward being very urgent I purpose to send the *Otter* on that Duty, if your Excellency thinks she can be spared without prejudice to the Service of this Port.

The *Nautilus* will sail in a few days for Savannah in Georgia Captain [John] Collins shall stop in the Delaware, at Virginia and at the Two Carolinas with any dispatches Your Excellency may have for these places. I have the honor to be with great regard Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Copy.

Boston 11th May 1775.

Sir I have received your letter of the 9th Inst and thank you for ordering a Sloop ready to depart with any dispatches that may be Necessary to be sent from this place. As soon as his Majesty's Service requires it, I shall do myself the pleasure to Acquaint you.

I shall be glad to see you on Saturday next [May 13] at 10 oClock in the Morning, to meet the Commissioners of the Customs, to consult About Mr George Ewings, petition to you, in regard to the preservation of his Vessells. –

I have the honor to be with great Regard Sir &ca.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE,
COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

Off Castle William Island [Boston Harbor]

Thursday 11 at 8 P M called all hands to Quarters. Sent a Boat to protect the *Elizabeth* [transport] & the Pinnace manned & armed to row Guard round the Bay.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

At Single Anchor in Holmes's Hole

Thursdy 11 at 7 [A M] Came too Et Chop Holmes's Hole W B S old Town
S B E Spoke a Ship from Maryland to Cork laden with flower

and Corn which we detain'd Sent the Master and 6 Men on Bd the above Ship² Came too in Holmes's Hole with the Bt Br East Chop Et Wt Chop SW at 11 Brought too a Schooner from Boston. at 3 P M Bro't too a Sloop at 6 Seiz'd a Sloop from Nantuckett for Having no Clearance

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

2. The ship *Champion*; see Graves's Narrative, May 29, 1775. Linzee sent her to Boston on 15 May.

JOHN LAWRENCE, TREASURER OF CONNECTICUT TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

Sr

Hartford May 11th 1775

The Governor, and Council have ordered me to purchase, Three Hundred Barrells, Or Six Hundred Half Barrells of Gun Powder, – Am advised to Apply to you. Admit you will Undertake it according to the former Agreement, please to let me hear from you; the first Opportunity. – It is proposed to keep our own Council I am &c.

John Lawrence

P.S. If you do undertake let there be no Delay. –

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

JOURNAL KEPT BY ELEAZER OSWALD ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN¹

May 11 [1775].

We set sail from Skenesborough in a schooner belonging to Major [Philip] Skene, which we christened *Liberty*.

1. This journal in the form of a letter from Ticonderoga, dated May 23, 1775, was published in the *New England Chronicle*, Cambridge, June 1, 1775. While the name of the writer was not revealed in the letter as published, his identity may be readily ascertained through contemporary letters. Hereafter cited as "Oswald's Journal."

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Gentlemen

Ticonderoga, May 11, 1775

I wrote you yesterday that arriving in the vicinity of this place, I found one hundred and fifty men collected at the instance of some gentlemen from Connecticut (designed on the same errand on which I came) headed by Colonel Ethan Allen, and that I had joined them, not thinking proper to wait the arrival of the Troops I had engaged on the road, but to attempt the Fort by surprise; that we had taken the Fort at four o'clock yesterday morning without opposition, and had made prisoners, one Captain, one Lieutenant, and forty odd privates and subalterns, and that we found the Fort in a most ruinous condition and not worth repairing; that a party of fifty men were gone to Crown Point, and that I intended to follow with as many men to seize the sloop, &c. and that I intended to keep possession here until I had farther advice from you. On and before our taking possession here, I had agreed with Colonel Allen to issue further orders jointly, until I could raise a sufficient number of men to relieve his people; on which plan we proceeded when I wrote you yesterday, since which, Colonel Allen, finding he had the ascendancy over his people, positively insisted I should have no command, as I

had forbid the soldiers plundering and destroying private property. The power is now taken out of my hands, and I am not consulted, nor have I a voice in any matters. There is here at present near one hundred men, who are in the greatest confusion and anarchy, destroying and plundering private property, committing every enormity, and paying no attention to public service. The party I advised were gone to Crown Point, are returned, having met with head winds, and that expedition, and taking the sloop, (mounted with six guns,) is entirely laid aside. There is not the least regularity among the Troops, but every thing is governed by whim and caprice; the soldiers threatening to leave the garrison on the least affront. Most of them must return home soon, as their families are suffering. Under our present situation, I believe one hundred men would retake the Fortress, and there seems no prospect of things being in a better situation. I have therefore thought proper to send an express, advising you of the state of affairs, not doubting you will take the matter into your serious consideration, and order a number of Troops to join those I have coming on here, or that you will appoint some other person to take the command of them and this place, as you shall think most proper. Colonel Allen is a proper man to head his own wild people, but entirely unacquainted with military service; and as I am the only person who has been legally authorized to take possession of this place, I am determined to insist on my right, and I think it my duty to remain here against all opposition, until I have further orders. I cannot comply with your orders in regard to the cannon, &c., for want of men. I have wrote to the Governour and General Assembly of Connecticut, advising them of my appointment, and giving them an exact detail of matters as they stand at present. I should be extremely glad to be honourably acquitted of my commission and that a proper person might be appointed in my room. But as I have, in consequence of my orders from you, gentlemen, been the first person who entered and took possession of the Fort, I shall keep it, at every hazard, until I have further advice and orders from you and the General Assembly of Connecticut.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen [&c.]

Benedict Arnold.

P.S. It is impossible to advise you how many cannon are here and at Crown Point, as many of them are buried in the ruins. There is a large number of iron, and some brass, and mortars, &c., lying on the edge of the Lake, which, as the Lake is high, are covered with water. The confusion we have been in has prevented my getting proper information, further than that there are many cannon, shells, mortars, &c. which may be very serviceable to our Army at Cambridge. B.A.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 557.

COLONEL ETHAN ALLEN TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen:

Ticonderoga, May 11, 1775.

I have to inform you with pleasure unfelt before, that on break of day of the tenth of May, 1775, by the order of the General Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut, took the Fortress of Ticonderoga by storm. The soldiery was composed

of about one hundred Green Mountain Boys, and near fifty veteran soldiers from the Province of Massachusetts-Bay. The latter was under the command of Colonel James Easton, who behaved with great zeal and fortitude, not only in council, but in the assault. The soldiery behaved with such resistless fury, that they so terrified the King's Troops that they durst not fire on their assailants, and our soldiery was agreeably disappointed. The soldiery behaved with uncommon rancour when they leaped into the Fort; and it must be confessed that the Colonel has greatly contributed to the taking of that Fortress, as well as John Brown, Esq., Attorney at Law, who was also an able counsellor, and was personally in the attack. I expect the Colonies will maintain this Fort. As to the cannon and warlike stores, I hope they may serve the cause of liberty instead of tyranny, and I humbly implore your assistance in immediately assisting the Government of Connecticut in establishing a garrison in the reduced premises. Colonel Easton will inform you at large.

From, gentlemen, [&c.]

Ethan Allen.

To the Honourable Congress of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, or Council of War.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 556.

COLONEL ETHAN ALLEN TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY ¹

Gentlemen:

Ticonderoga, May 11, 1775.

I have the inexpressible satisfaction to acquaint you that at day-break of the tenth instant, pursuant to my directions from sundry leading Gentlemen of Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut, I took the fortress of Ticonderoga, with about one hundred and thirty Green Mountain Boys. Colonel [James] Easton with about forty-seven valiant soldiers, distinguished themselves in the action. Colonel [Benedict] Arnold entered the fortress with me side by side. The guard was so surprised, that contrary to expectation they did not fire on us, but fled with precipitancy. We immediately entered the fortress and took the garrison prisoners, without bloodshed, or any opposition. They consisted of one Captain, and a Lieutenant and forty two men.

Little more need be said. You know Governour [Guy] Carleton of Canada will exert himself to retake it; and as your County is nearer than any other part of the Colonies, and as your inhabitants have thoroughly manifested their zeal in the cause of their Country, I expect immediate assistance from you both in men and provisions. You cannot exert yourself too much in so glorious a cause. The number of men need be more at first, till the other Colonies can have time to muster. I am apprehensive of a sudden and quick attack. Pray be quick to our relief, and send us five hundred men immediately – fail not. From your friend [&c.]

Ethan Allen

Abraham Yates, Chairman of the Committee, Albany

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 606.

EDWARD MOTT TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen:

Shoreham, May 11, 1775

I would congratulate you on the surrender of the Garrison of Ticonderoga to the American Forces. The affair was planned and conducted after the following manner. A number of the principal gentlemen of the Assembly at Hartford, on Friday, the twenty-eighth of April, conversing on the distressed condition of the people of Boston, and the means necessary to relieve them, fell on the scheme to take that Fortress, that we might have the advantage of the Cannon that were there, to relieve the people of Boston. I told the gentlemen that in my opinion it might be taken by surprise with a few men if properly conducted. On which they desired me, if I was willing to serve my Country in that way, to joint Captain Noah Phelps of Simsbury, and Mr. Bernard Romans, on that design, and furnished us with three hundred Pounds in cash, from the Treasury, and desired us to go forward to the upper Towns, and search into the situation of said Garrison, and, if I thought proper, to proceed to take possession of the same. On which we collected to the number of sixteen men in Connecticut, and proceeded forward till we came to Colonel [James] Easton's, at Pittsfield, and there consulted with Colonel Easton and John Brown, Esq., who, after they heard our plan of operation agreed to join us; and, after informing them that we intended raising our men on the [New Hampshire] Grants for the aforesaid purpose, as it would be difficult to raise and march a number of men through the country any distance, without our plans being discovered, Colonel Easton and Mr. Brown told us that the people on the Grants were poor, and at this time of year it would be difficult to raise a sufficient number of men there to take and hold said Garrison, whereupon Colonel Easton offered to raise men in his own Regiment for the aforesaid purpose, to join with the Green Mountain Boys.² On which I set out with him for the Town of Jericho, where Colonel Easton raised between forty and fifty men, and proceeded to Bennington, at which place the men arrived the next day. At which place a Council of War was called, Colonel Easton being Chairman, it was voted that Colonel [Ethan] Allen should send forward parties to secure the roads to the northward to prevent all intelligence from arriving before us. On Sunday evening, the seventh of this instant, we arrived at Castleton, where, the next day, was held a Council of War by a Committee chosen for that purpose, of which Committee I have the honour to be Chairman. After debating and consulting on different methods of procedure in order to accomplish our designs, it was concluded and voted that we would proceed in the following manner, viz: That a party of thirty men, under the command of Captain Herrick, should, on the next day, in the afternoon, proceed to Skenesborough, and take into custody Major [Philip] Skene and his party, and take possession of all the boats that they should find there, and in the night proceed up the Lake to Shoreham, with the remainder of our men, which was about one hundred and forty, who were under the command of Colonel Ethan Allen, and Colonel James Easton was his second, and Captain [Seth] Warner the third in command; as these three men were the persons who raised the men, they were chosen to command, and to rank according

to the number of men that each one raised. We also sent off Captain [Asa] Douglass, of Jericho, to proceed directly to Pantton, and there consult his brother-in-law who lived there, and send down some boats to Shoreham, if possible, to help our people over to the Fort. All this was concluded should be done, or attempted and voted universally. After this affair was all settled, and the men pitched on to go in each party, all were preparing for their march, being then within about nine miles of Skenesborough, and about twenty-five miles, the way we went, from Ticonderoga.

Colonel [Benedict] Arnold arrived to us from you with his orders. We were extremely rejoiced to see that you fully agreed with us as to the expediency and importance of taking possession of those garrisons, but were shockingly surprised when Colonel Arnold presumed to contend for the command of those forces that we had raised, who we had assured should go under the command of their own officers, and be paid and maintained by the Colony of Connecticut. But Mr. Arnold, after we had generously told him our whole plan, strenuously contended and insisted that he had a right to command them and all their officers, which bred such a mutiny among the soldiers which had nearly frustrated our whole design, as our men were for clubbing their fire-locks and marching home, but were prevented by Colonel Allen and Colonel Easton, who told them that he should not take the command of them, and if he had, their pay would be the same as though they were under their command; but they would damn the pay, and say they would not be commanded by any others but those they engaged with; and after the Garrison was surrendered, Mr. Arnold again assumed the command of the Garrison, although he had not one man there, and demanded it of Colonel Allen, on which we gave Colonel Allen his orders in writing, as follows, viz.

To Colonel Ethan Allen,

Sir, Whereas agreeable to the power and authority to us given by the Colony of Connecticut, we have appointed you to take the command of a party of men, and reduce and take possession of the Garrison at Ticonderoga, and the dependencies thereto belonging, and as you are now in actual possession of the same, you are hereby required to keep the command and possession of the same, for the use of the American Colonies, until you have further orders from the Colony of Connecticut, or the Continental Congress.

Signed by order of the Committee of War,

Edward Mott, Chairman.

Colonel James Easton was of great service both in council and action, and in raising men for the above expedition, and appeared to be well qualified to be not only a Colonel of the Militia at home, but to command in the field. And also John Brown, Esq., of Pittsfield, we recommend as an able counsellor, and full of spirit and resolution, as well as good conduct; wish they may both be employed in the service of their Country equal to their merit.

I have the pleasure to add, that on Wednesday morning last, the tenth of this instant about the break of day, our men entered the gate, till when they were undiscovered, and in the most courageous and intrepid manner darted like lightning upon the guards, so that but two had time to snap their fire-locks at

us, and in a few minutes the Fortress, with its dependencies were delivered into our hands. There are about forty soldiers taken prisoners of war, including Officers, and excluding those taken at Skenesborough. Not one life lost in these noble acquisitions.

I am, Gentlemen, in haste [&c.]

Edward Mott,
Chairman of the Committee of War.

Per favour of Colonel James Easton

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 557–560, from Mass. Arch., vol. 193.
2. See the letter from Pittsfield, May 4, 1775.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO JAMES FORDE, DROGHEDA ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore 11 May, 1775]

Could a Vessell be got at present for your port we would ship your Seacond Cargo of Wheat, for two reasons. the first is from the letters we formerly wrote you Quoting the prices will prevent your Chartering a Vessell – the Seacond is the Certainty of our ports being shut here (by our own Consent) soon. will prevent the supplys going to you that otherwise would & of Course a Seacond Cargo would answer with you but we are fearful it will not be in our power to get a Vessell for your port as the[y] are scarce at present . . . Our Congress are now Sitting & the probabillity of our ports soon being shut makes prices keep up as every person that has a Ship here are pushing to get her away

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

WILLIAM SALMON TO WILLIAM BRYAN, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore 11 May, 1775]

. . . Our Differences with England at present Caries a bad face As the troops & people at Boston have had an Engagement in which the troops have been worsted Since then people in General are all taking the Muskett except some few that Really wish the acts of Parliament would take place We suppose from Interested Views. from the Situation of Matters here at present we think that all business will soon be stopped In which case we suppose every person on this side will have nothing to do, but to prepare for fighting we wish to hear from you soon

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

12 May

“[CONTINUATION OF] LETTER FROM FALMOUTH TO A
GENTLEMAN IN WATERTOWN” ¹

Friday [May 12, 1775], 3 o'clock. – They have just hauled another boat over to Back Cove, and left it with the former. The boat belongs to the ship. They have this day carried off Mr. [William] Tyng's Bishop, a piece of plate said to be worth five hundred Pounds, (old tenour,) and his laced hat; but they

say they only take these things as pawns, to make the owners behave better, or to that purpose.

Friday, 6 o'clock. – The Gorham Company being the only one that remained here since Wednesday evening, excepting [Samuel] Thompson, are now gone out of Town, being urged and coaxed to it by Colonel [Edmund] Phinney. The Town thinks itself greatly relieved by it.

These companies paid no regard to the fast yesterday. I cannot find that any of them attended publick worship, except one; nor any of their officers, except Colonel Phinney. He was sent for to Back Cove by Colonel [Jonathan] Mitchell and Colonel [Moses] Merrill, who were vexed at the proceedings of the armament, and came to give advice. But Thompson would not wait on his senior.

The soldiery thought nothing too bad to say of the Falmouth gentry. Some of them were heard to say as they walked the streets yesterday, "this Town ought to be laid in ashes." I find the plan was concerted beforehand on purpose to humble Falmouth, for its arrogance in sending a message to Thompson last week, to dissuade him from coming to take the ships. He then wrote to Colonel [Enoch] Freeman that he had wholly laid aside his design; and being reminded of it, his answer was, "there is policy in war."

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 554, 555.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Canceaux*, HENRY MOWAT, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Moored in Falmouth Harbor, Casco Bay

Friday 12 Empd as before, watching the motion of the Rebels – Fired several Shot at different Craft to bring them to. heard that the Rebels began to Disperse

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4136.

New England Chronicle, FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1775

Cambridge, May 12.

A Spanish ship of about 150 Tons, bound from the Havanna to Cadiz, having lost her Rudder and all her Masts, was met with in great Distress on the Grand Bank, by two Marblehead fishing schooners, who took up her Men, together with a Quantity of Snuff, Tobacco, &c. and 23,000 Dollars in Cash; all which were brought safe into Marblehead on Saturday last [May 6], but soon after taken Possession of by the *Lively Man of War*.¹

1. See Graves to Stephens, June 14, 1775.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE CUSTOMS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir The Collector & Comptroller of His Majesty's Customs at Falmouth having by their Letter of the 29th ultimo expressed Apprehensions for their Safety in case His Majesty's Ship *Canceaux* should be ordered from that Place and prayed

that Protection may be afforded them in their present critical Situation – We herewith annex a Copy of the said Letter for your Information –

We are Sir [&c.]

W^m Burch Henry Hulton Benj. Hallowell

Custom House Boston 12th May 1775

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

Off Castle William [Island Boston Harbor]

Friday 12 At 4 A M saw a hundred Rebels on Dorchester Neck. Dischargd the hands from quarters [P M] Saw 38 Rebels hawling their Seine on Dorchester Point

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

ETHAN ALLEN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT ¹

Honobl Sr

Ticonderoga 12th May 1775

I make You a Present of a Major a Captain and Two Lieuts in the regular Establishment of George the Third I hope they may serve as ransoms for Some of our Friends at Boston and particularly for Capt [John] Brown of Rhodiseland a Party of men under the Command of Capt [Samuel] Herick has Took Possession Scanesborough Imprisoned Major [Philip] Sceene and Seized a Schooner of his, I Expect in Ten Days Time to have it rigged maned and armed with 6 or 8 Pieces of Canon which with the Boats in our Possession I Purpose to make an Attack on the armed Sloop of George the Third which is Now Crusing on Lake Champlain and is about Twice as bigg as the Schooner, I Hope in a Short Time to be authorised to acquaint Your Honour that Lake Champlain & the fortifications thereon are subjected to the Colonies

The Enterprise has been approbated by the Officers and Soldiary of the Green Mountain Boys Nor do I hisitate as to the Success I Expect Lives must be Lost in the Attack as the Comander of George's Sloop is a man of Courage &c.

I Conclude Capt [Seth] Worner is by this Time in Possession of Crown Point the Ordnance Stores &c I Conclude Governor [Guy] Carleton will Exert himself to oppose us & Command the Lake &c. – Messrs [Benjamin] Hickok, [Jeremiah] Halsey – & [Moses] Nichols have the Charge of Conducting the Officers to Hartford These Gentlemen have been Very Assiduous and active in the Late Expedition I Depend upon Your Honours aid and Assistance in a Situation so Contiguous to Canada,

I Subscribe my Self Your Honours [&c.]

Ethan Allen

At Present Commander of Ticonderoga

1. *Bulletin*, Fort Ticonderoga Museum, IV, 3, 65.

ABRAHAM YATES, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, TO
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED OF NEW YORK ¹

Gentlemen:

Albany, May 12, 1775

We applied to you on the third instant, for your advice on an application to us for supplying with provisions, &c., some Troops from Connecticut, on their intended attack against Ticonderoga, &c. and it is to our great regret that we have hitherto received no answer, although we pressed it, and have since wrote to you on the subject, by Colonel [Philip] Schuyler, since which time frequent applications have been made to us on the same subject; and as we are unacquainted with the sentiments of our Colony on this very important enterprise, we have declined interfering.

We have just now received the original of the enclosed copy; ² by its contents you will see that they have succeeded in surprising Ticonderoga, and that a requisition is made for men and provisions in order to enable them to repair and hold that fortress. Mr. [John] Brown, who was personally in the action, brought the letter, and made the demand, says, that the prisoners were on their way to this City; but that unless they are immediately assisted, they are afraid they will be obliged to abandon the fort, and leave the artillery behind, of which there are about two hundred pieces, great and small. He is dissatisfied with our answers, and went away abruptly, though we told him the circumstances we were in, and that we would immediately despatch an express to you. We hope you will no longer keep us in suspense.

As the Troops in Canada will probably endeavour to retake it, the consequence of this enterprise will probably involve the northern parts of this Colony in the horrors of war and devastation, and therefore we earnestly call on you furnish us with your advice in this alarming crisis, immediately by Captain Barent Ten Eyck, who is sent express. We are, Gentlemen [&c.]

Abraham Yates, Jun; Chairman

By order of the Committee of the City of Albany

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 605, 606.

2. Enclosing Ethan Allen's letter of May 11, 1775.

INTELLIGENCE FROM NEW YORK RECEIVED BY VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

(Copy)

New York 12 May 1775

The City of New York is at present in a perfect State of Anarchy and Confusion, the Civil Power being wrested out of the hands of the Magistrates by a set of Rioters who have broke open the City Hall and distributed the City Arms, and embodied themselves and are taking every opportunity of persecuting the friends of Government, some of whom are obliged to go on board the *Kings fisher* for Security (Doctor [Myles] Cooper & James Rivington.) The Committee has come to a resolution not to suffer any Provisions to be sent to Boston, Nova Scotia, or Newfoundland, nor to carry on any Trade with the Canadians, they have also come to a resolution not to suffer the King's Troops to go from hence (should they be ordered) And have sent to the General Congress to know if they shall attack them, in which Case a re-inforcement of Ships would be

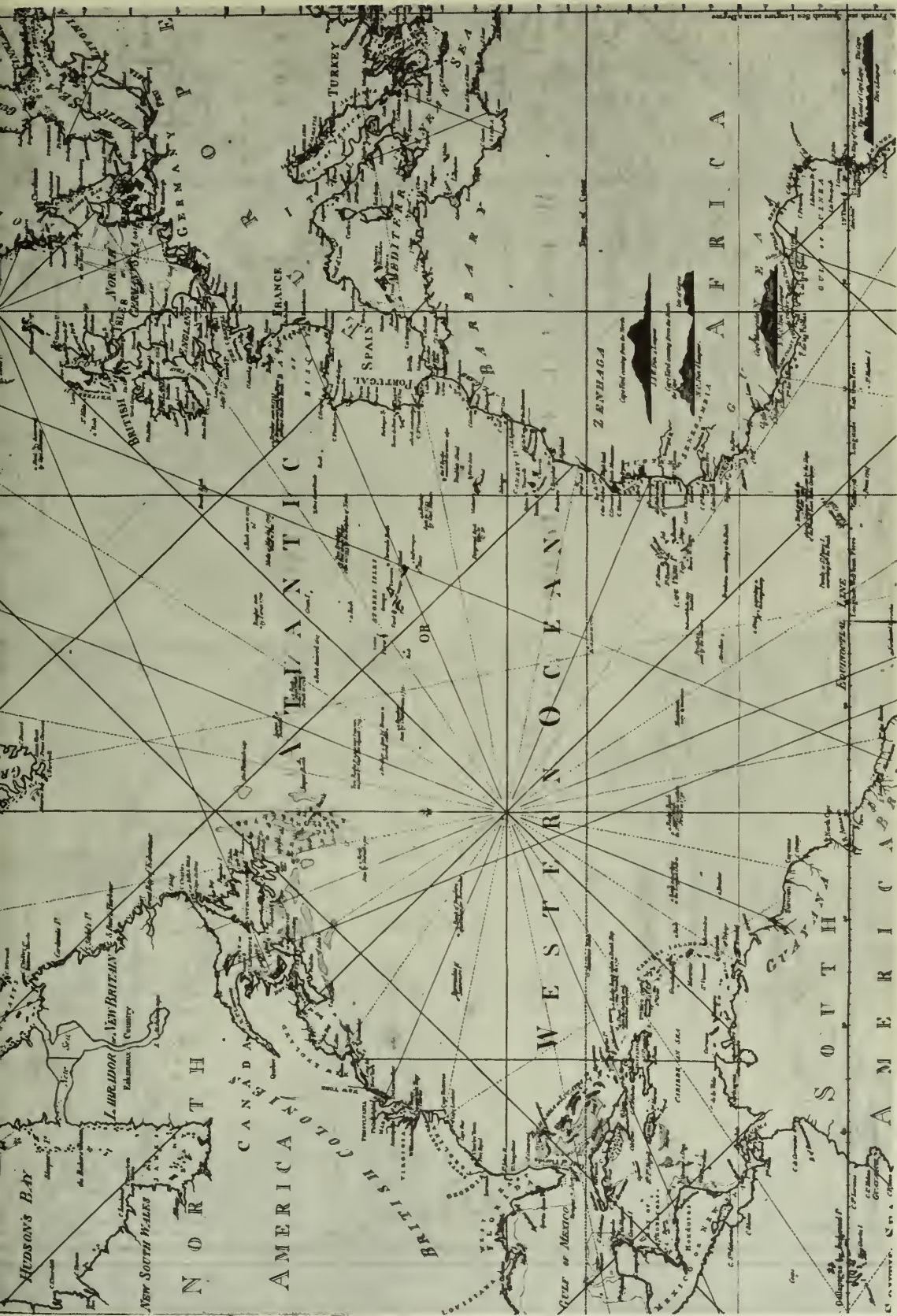


Chart of the Atlantic Ocean, 1775.

Necessary; Let their determination be what they will a few Ships of War would be a great Means of Keeping the licentious in-Awe.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTYS SLOOP *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Att Single Anchor in Holmes's Hole.

Frydy 12 at 10.A M Sent the Gunners Mate Surgeons mate and 11 Men On Board the above Sloop [seized the previous day] ² at ½ past 11 Weighd and Came to Sail at 2 P M fird a Six poundr and a Swivel Shotted to bring too a Schooner at 4 Came too in Tarpolen Cove with the Bt Br Wt point S W at 9 fird a Six poundr and Swivel at a Schooner. ³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

2. Linzee's journal makes no mention of what happened to this sloop; see *New York Gazette*, May 22, and *Massachusetts Spy*, Worcester, May 24, 1775.

3. The two schooners seized, and which were later condemned and sold at Boston, were the *Hawke* and *Doctors Box*, both laden with fish.

WILLIAM SALMON TO CAPTAIN JAMES GREEN ¹

[Baltimore 12 May, 1775]

You are now Ready for sea with the Schooner *Industry* ² under your Command & we Request your proceeding Immediately for Dublin, & on Your Arrival there Apply to Mr Geo Darley on the North Strand & Deliver him all the letters you may have or if he is not at home to some of his Family & take yr further orders from him, if you should put into any other port in Ireland before you get to Dublin (which we hope will not be the Case) be sure you write Mr Darley Immediately, You will plase take notice that from the day you took Charge of yr Vessel you are to have Seven pounds p Month a Privilage of twelve barrells of flour & one Shilling brittish p day while you Remain in Dublin We are Sir
Wishing you a Good passage Yrs W. S.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. This is an entirely erroneous report. Lord Percy was not wounded, and Haldimand was not headings, 20 half barrels flour and 620 oak planks, cleared May 8, 1775," Port of Entry Books, 1745-1775, MdHS. This is the only entry in the book where the Christian name of the Captain is missing. The letter above supplies this deficiency.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore 12 May, 1775]

The most particular acct. we can hear of the Late Unhappy affair at Boston is that their are Upwards of 300 of the troops Killed Missing & Wounded. Amongst the last is Lord Piercy & Gl. [Frederick] Haldiman & Since the Engagement Piercy is dead, ² amongst the Country 40 odd Killed in which is one Colonell Gardner, ³ it seems the troops lost their Old English Courage & turnd privet Murderers of Old Men & Children thus far you may be assured that the troops fired first & that their never ware more than 600 Country people Engaged their 1700 Men untill the[y] got Close to Charles town whare the Country people got more assistance & if I Judge well I really think that if 5000 troops Comes out the[y]

will not put the accts in force as those people to the Northward Seem Resolved to die or be free & the spirit of freedom seems to spread fast, as all the Southern provinces are getting under Armes. You need not wonder at the Assembly of N. York as the[y] are all place Men, but be assured Liberty has learge Majority in all that province, Numbers of Vessells are Loading for England say London & Bristol but not one for Ireland, but I find there is a Snow this Morning Come up from Belfast I have not Yet heard who is too, but I suppose to Ewing I have not yet got any letters

You may be assured that all Exporting will stop agreeable to the Rules of the Congress & I think before as our [Provincial] Congress are now sitting at present & from the proceedings of General [Thomas] Gage we have Reason to Expect that all exports whatever will soon stop but of that you shall hear the Earliest Intelligence

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.
2. This is an entirely erroneous report. Lord Percy was not wounded, and Haldimand was not in the engagement.
3. Captain Isaac Garner, of the Brookline company of Massachusetts militia.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1775

Williamsburg, May 12.

This day, about two o'clock, the Right Hon. the Countess of Dunmore, with the rest of the Governor's family, who have for some time past been on board the *Fowey* man of war, arrived at the palace in this city, to the great joy of the inhabitants, and, we make no doubt, of the whole country, who have the most unfeigned regard for her Ladyship, and wish her long to live amongst us.

JAMES MILLER TO ALEXANDER PURDIE ¹

Mr. Purdie,

Williamsburg, May 12, 1775

It is an unpardonable crime in any man wantonly to rob his neighbour of his fortune and reputation, by a partial representation of facts.² Your correspondent should have informed the publick that Mr. [Samuel] Gist is principal owner of the ship *Mary*, and has the sole management of her himself; that he built her to accommodate his friends in Virginia with freight, in a good stout vessel; and that the small part Mr. [John] Wilkinson has in her was intended to promote that end, by his superintending the building of her in Yorkshire, where he resides. I hope the impartial publick will consider that Mr. Wilkinson's political principles did not appear at the time Mr. Gist became connected with him, that, in short, they do not now appear, as it is notorious that when ships are wanted for government service the King does not ask merchants whether they are willing or not to let them. If Mr. Wilkinson has voluntarily transgressed, I can pledge myself for Mr. Gist that he will resent it in such manner as is most agreeable to the Americans, and will conduce the most to promote the glorious cause in which they are embarked: His connexions with, and the obligations he is under to Virginia are well known, and he is very ready to acknowledge them. Several Gentlemen, who are just arrived from England, can testify that he proved himself a zealous friend to American liberty on a late important occasion. The querist

is respectfully acquainted, that it is possible to serve a friend without injuring the innocent. I am, Mr. Purdie, your's, the publick's, and especially Mr. Gist's friends, obedient humble servant, and, whenever it is requisite they shall be waited upon in person, by

James Miller ³

1. Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, May 12, 1775.

2. See "An Anonymous Letter to Alexander Purdie, May 5, 1775."

3. Captain of the ship *Mary*.

13 May

"[CONTINUATION OF] LETTER FROM FALMOUTH TO A GENTLEMAN IN WATERTOWN" ¹

Saturday [May 13, 1775], A.M. — [Samuel] Thompson is not gone, as we supposed last night. The ship has sent out a little vessel with a swivel to interrupt him. If he had gone last night he would have been destroyed. Your friend and servant.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 555.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston the 13th of May 1775.

Mr Coffin Cashier of the Customs having Acquainted Me with his Apprehensions for the Safety of the *Charming Nancy* Transport, hourly expected to arrive in the Bay, with Cloathing, Stores and other Necessaries for the Army, I have ordered Captain [John] Collins in the *Nautilus* to cruize for the said Transport until her Arrival and to see her safe into Boston. I have the Honor to be with great regard. Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 13 May 1775

My last Letter to you dated April 22d went by Lieut. [Joseph] Nunn in a Brig from Salem.

Lieut. [Thomas] Graves in the *Diana* is returned: I inclose a List of the Cannon and Ordnance he brought from the Fort at Penobscot. I have since employed the *Diana* cruizing between Cape Ann and Cape Cod.

I transmit Copies of a Memorial to Lieut. [Henry] Mowat Commander of the *Canceaux*, and of his Letter to me: from these Accounts and from the representations of the Commissioners of the Customs also inclosed, I find myself obliged to let the *Canceaux* remain at Falmouth until I can send some other Vessel to relieve her.

The *Falcon* sailed the 30th of April with Orders to go to [Martha's] Vineyard and seize a Cargo of Flour, then to proceed to Elizabeth Islands to prevent a considerable Number of black Cattle and Sheep from being carried off. Cap-

tain [John] Linzee has just informed me that there is about 1500 Sheep on these Islands, with a few Cows, and that from their Vicinity to the Main, it is not possible to hinder the Stock being taken off. The Ship with the flour was not at the Vineyard.

The *Tartar* still remains at Halifax for the security of that Yard and the Kings Stores.

The *Lively* continued at Marblehead raising Seamen and protecting the trade of those who are not in rebellion.

I will send a Sloop to Georgia whenever one can be spared from the immediate and pressing services of this province.

The Action of the 19th of April, falsely represented thro' the Continent as begun by the Kings Troops, has furnished a pretence for the seditious and disaffected (before too much disposed to Rebellion to appear in arms; they are absolutely so throughout the four provinces, and the Intelligence sent me by Captains [James] Wallace and James Montagu of the proceedings at New York (Copies of which are inclosed) fully satisfying me of the necessity of sending thither a Ship of force I ordered the *Asia*, but the prevailing Easterly winds kept her from getting out of this Harbour until the 8th instant.

Since my Letter of the 23d was written we have had repeated Information of the Rebels Design to surprise Castle William; I suppose to destroy the Magazines there. The *Asia*, *Otter* Sloop, and *Hope* Schooner have been employed entirely to prevent such an Attack, and upon the departure of the *Asia* I ordered the *Boyne* to take her place.

Reports are also spread that flat bottomed Boats are constructing up the Rivers, and at several places in the Neighbourhood, to be brought by Land to those Rivers, from whence the Rebels are to attack Boston and the Shipping; though these Schemes are scarcely practicable yet we are guarded against every possible Surprise. Our Boats rowing Guard have often been fired at from the Shore, but I have given the Captains of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels Orders not to fire again upon any Account unless they are absolutely attacked, and some one wounded or Killed; and then only to drive away the Rebels without pursuing; being extremely loath (however difficult from repeated provocations to forbear) to commence hostilities by sea without the justest Reason, until I can be honoured with their Lordships Commands on this important Subject. I shall continue to give every support in my power to his Majesty's Governors of Provinces, upon their requisition, for the protection of the Kings faithful Subjects and their property, and for the security of lawful Commerce.

I transmit for their Lordships Information various Intelligence I have received from Captain Wallace of his Majesty's ship *Rose*. In a Letter of the 26th April Captain Wallace informs me that some friends of Government have been very industrious to bring the town of Newport over to the King, and were they sure of constant support they flatter themselves with succeeding; but what reliance! at present they are in terror of the Kings Ships. However I submit to their Lordships consideration the Importance of such a Post. Possession of this place would cut off any Supplies that could be sent from the Southern to the Northern Colonies, and it appears to me from its Situation of such great consequence that I most

heartily wish it was established as a Kings Post and fortified accordingly: In the mean time I shall add a Sloop of War or a Schooner to the Service Captain Wallace is employed in.

All communication by Land is entirely stopped: General [Thomas] Gage has represented to me the necessity for having small Vessels to carry dispatches to and from New York, and occasionally to Piscataqua and Halifax. I have acquainted the Governor that a Vessel shall be ready to depart with Dispatches on the Kings Service whenever his Excellency pleases. I have hired one Sloop for this purpose and shall provide as many as the necessity of the times require and I can procure. I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 83-86, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

[Extract]

Preston Boston 13th May 1775

[Second Letter]

In obedience to their Lordships Order I have purchased two Schooners, and established them as armed Schooners, One by the Name of *St Laurence*, the other of *Halifax*, meaning by the latter name to continue that of the late *Halifax* lost near Machias. I have given an Order to Lieut John Graves to command the *St Laurence* and Mr John De la Touche I have ordered to command the *Halifax*.

The Fears of a few well disposed people to risk their Vessels, and the determination of the rest to prevent the Army and Navy having Supplies of provisions and Fuel, have caused most of the Vessels in this province to be dismantled and laid up. It was with great difficulty I could purchase the two Schooners I have got, for under the severe prohibition of the Rebel Generals few people dare to supply us. I have directed the *Halifax* and *St Laurence* to be fitted at Halifax Yard and to return with all possible expedition to Boston.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 87, 88, MassHS Transcript. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, this letter is dated May 14, 1775.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] May 13th [1775]

The Admiral acquainted the Commissioners of the Customs that he had ordered the *Canceaux* to remain at Falmouth for the protection of their Officers, and other friends to Government, who were threatened by the Bulk of the People.

About this time the Garrison were under great Apprehensions for the Safety of a Transport daily expected from England with Cloathings, Necessaries and Stores for the Troops; and it having been reported the Rebels designed to intercept her, the *Nautilus* was sent to cruize between Cape Ann and Cape Cod with Orders to seize all Ships and Vessels laden with Arms and Ammunition or Provisions, and to see them safe into Boston or put a sufficient force on board for that purpose. And the like Orders were issued to all the other Ships and Vessels of the Squadron.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 88, MassHS Transcript.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 13th. [May, 1775]

This afternoon, between 2 and 3000 of the Rebels came from Cambridge, march'd over the Neck at Charles Town and up the Height above the Town, where they kept parading a long time, then march'd into the Town, and after giving the War-hoop opposite the *Somerset* returned as they came. At same time a body of 300 paraded in Cambridge Marsh, opposite our encampment; they placed a chain of Centries all along the Marsh and retired into the Woods. This body I suppose is the Guard of a square redoubt they have thrown up near there, and have now pitched tents in. It was expected the Body of Charles Town wou'd have fired on the *Somerset*, at least it was wished for, as she had everything ready for Action, and must have destroyed great numbers of them, besides putting the Town in Ashes.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 46, 47.

JOURNAL KEPT BY ELEAZER OSWALD ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN ¹

Sunday [May] 13 ² Arrived at Ticonderoga, from whence, after some preparations, we set sail for Crown-Point.

1. "Oswald's Journal."

2. This entry was misdated by Oswald. Sunday fell on May 14. Oswald also erroneously dated his entries for May 15, 16, 17. See pp. 330, 340, 344.

14 May (Sunday)JEDIDIAH PREBLE TO MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Hond Sir

Falmo 14th May 1775

the Committee of Corespdcce in this Town beg leave to inform you that Some Time past we received Advice from George Town, that Col: [Samuel] Thompson was fitting two Vessels there, with Design to attempt the taking the Kings Ship *Canceaux* stationed in this Harbour commanded by Capt [Henry] Mowat, a Gentleman, whose Conduct since he has been here, has given no Grounds of Suspicion, he had any Design to distress or injure us; but on the other hand he has afforded his Assistance to sundry Vessels in Distress. We thought such an Attempt had the Appearance of laying a Foundation for the Destruction of this Town, the Comittee of Correspondence met & wrote to the Comittee of Correspondence at George Town desiring they would prevent their Coming; we also wrote to Col: Thompson, desiring him to desist from such an attempt, as it would through the Town into the greatest Confusion imaginable: we sent an Express, & received his Answer, that he had dropt the Design of Coming –

But, on Monday night [May 8] he landed upwards of Sixty Men, on the Back side of a Neck of Land joyning to the Town, who came there in a Number of Boats, & lay undiscovered till about the middle of the Next Day; at which Time, Capt Mowat, the Doctor of the Ship, & Parson [John] Wiswall, were taking a Walk on said Neck, when a Detachment from Col: Thompson's Party rushed from their Concealment, surrounded the Gentlemen, & made them Prisoners, & conducted them to the Colonel, who was with the main Body, on the back Side of the Neck. Capt. Hog, who now commanded the Ship, immediately clapped Springs on his Cables. She laying within Musket Shott of the

Town, & swore if the Gentlemen were not Releas'd by Six o'Clock, he would fire on the Town. He fired two Cannon, & although there were no Shott in them, it frightened the Women & Children to such a Degree, that some crawled under wharves; some ran down Cellar, & some out of Town. Such a Shocking Scene was never before presented to View here – The Gentlemen who were in custody were conducted to a publick House Where Capt Mowat declared, if he was not released it would be the Destruction of the Town. Every Gentleman present used their Utmost Endeavours to accomodate the Matter. Col: Thompson consented that a Comittee should be chosen, consisting of Officers from his Party and Gentlemen from the Town, to consult in what manner the affair could be accomodated; but, as it was late, the Committee chose to refer the Consideration of it till next Morning. Capt. Mowat then requested, he might go on Board his Ship that night & he would pawn his Word & Honour that he would return next Morning, at what Time, and at what place should be appointed. Coll. Thompson consented, provided Coll [Enoch] Freeman & Brigadier Preble would pass their Words, that the several Gentlemen should return according to their Promise, & also pawn their Word & Honour, if the Gentlemen fail'd of coming, that they would deliver themselves up, & stand by the Consequences, which was consented to. Capt Mowatt not coming according to his Promise, which was to have been at Nine o Clock the next Morning, the Sponsors appeared according to Promise, & were confined. Capt Mowatt wrote to them, & let them know he had fully determined to have comply'd with his promise, but he had sent his man on Shoar to carry some dirty Linen to his washing Woman & to bring of[f] some clean: that said man made Oath, that two of the Body under Arms, one of which, swore by all that was sacred, the moment he came on Shore he should have what was in his Piece, and the other, that he should never return on Board again with his Life: & that two more of his men made Oath, they heard several of the Men under Arms say, the moment he came on Shore they would have his Life; this was what he wrote to plead an Excuse for not complying with his promise. Coll. Thompson told the two Gentlemen under Confinement, that he must have some Provision & Refreshment for his men, which they procured to the Amount of thirteen or fourteen Pounds Money; on which they were dismissed. – about ten o'Clock, he sent an Account to them for Time & Expense, amounting to £158.18 M. and gave them till next morning, nine o Clock to return an Answer; which they did, in the Negative, He said he would have Satisfaction before he left Town. He then seized all the Goods he could find belonging to Capt. [Thomas] Coulson & Wm Tyng Esq. They also carried off one Boat belonging to Coulson, & one other to Capt Mowatt; they also obliged Capt [Jeremiah] Pote to furnish them with some Provision & a small Matter of Cash; they also brought one Man on his Knees, for speaking disrespectfully of the Coll. & his Men. Coll. Thompson, we doubt not, is a true Friend to his Country & a Man of Courage & Resolution, but, [as] our Town lays so much exposed to the Navy, that, had he succeeded in his Attempt (which there was not the least Probability of) it must have proved

the Destruction of this Town & the Country back, who are in the greatest Distress for want of Provisions. We have only related plain Facts, that the Honourable Members of the Provincial Congress may not be imposed on with false Accounts, to whom Please to communicate this Letter.

We are with Great Esteem Gentn [&c.]

Jedidiah Preble Chairman

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 187–189.

“REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER”¹

May 1775 Fired a 9 Pounder shotted at a Schooner from St Vincents, Im-
Sunday 14th press'd 4 Men from her

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS, R.N.¹

His Excellency the Governor having represented to me that it is of the utmost Consequence to seize all Vessels laden with Provisions, as well to distress the Rebels as to be of use to his Majesty's liege Subjects here; You are hereby required and directed to be vigilant in looking out for and searching all Vessels and to secure such as may have Provisions, Arms or Ammunition on board, and not suffer them to [enter] any of the Ports in this Province but Boston to which Place you are either to see them in safety yourself, or put a sufficient Force on board for that purpose.

Given under my Hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston* at Boston the 14th May 1775

To Captain Collins of his Majs. Sloop *Nautilus* and to all the other Ships & Vessels.

By Command &c.

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 416, MassHS Transcript.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

Copy.

Sir.

Boston 14th May 1775.

I have received your letter of Yesterday and thank you for the Steps you have taken for the Safety of the *Charming Nancy* Transport,

As it is of the Utmost Consequence to Seize all Vessels loaded with Provisions, as well to distress the Rebels, as to be of use to his Majesty's liege Subjects here, I should be glad you would give Orders to all the Ships, and Vessels, under your Command, to be Vigilant, in looking out for, and Searching all Vessels and to Secure such as may have provision Arms or Ammunition on board, and not suffer them to enter into any of the Ports of this Province but Boston where it would be proper to send them Immediately. —

1. Gage Papers, CL.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Ticonderoga 14 May 1775 –

My last was the 11th Inst pr Express; since which, a Party of Men have seized on Crown Point in which they took 11 Prisoners, & found 61 Pieces of Cannon serviceable, and 53 unfit for service – I ordered a Party to Skeensborough who have made Majr Skeene Prisoner, & seized a small Schooner which is just arrived here – I intend setting out in her directly, with a Batteau & 50 Men to take Possession of the Sloop, which we are advised this Morning, by the Post, is at St Johns, loaded with Provisions and waiting a Wind for this Place, – Inclosed is a List of Cannon &c here, though imperfect as we have found many pieces not included, and some are on the Edge of the Lake covered with Water – I am, with the Assistance of Mr Bernard Romans, making Preparation at Fort George, for transporting to Albany these Cannon that will be serviceable to our Army at Cambridge. I have about 100 Men here, & expect more every Minute. Mr [Ethan] Allen's party is decreasing, & the Dispute between us subsiding. I am extremely sorry Matters have not been transacted with more Prudence & Judgment. I have done every Thing in my Power, & put up with many Insults to preserve Peace, & serve the Public.

I hope soon to be properly released from this Troublesome Business & that some proper Person may be appointed in my room, till which I am [&c]

Bened^t Arnold

P.S. since writing the above, Mr Romans concludes going to Albany to forward Carriages for the Cannon &c and Provisions which will be soon wanted – I beg leave to observe, he has been of great Service here, & I think him a very spirited Judicious Gentleman, who has the Service of the Country much at Heart, and hope he will meet proper Encouragement

B A

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 186.

JOURNAL KEPT BY ELEAZER OSWALD ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN ¹

Monday, [May] 14 [15].² Contrary winds retarded our voyage, and the day drew to a close when we anchored at Crown-Point.

1. "Oswald's Journal."

2. This entry was misdated. See p. 327.

MEMORIAL OF ROBERT AND JOHN MURRAY TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

To the Honble the Continental Congress now Sitting at Philadelphia

The Memorial of Robert Murray and John Murray of the City of New York Merchants Humbly Sheweth

That the Memorialists being owners of the Ship *Dutchess of Gordon* and expecting She would be in London by the time their orders could arrive there did, on the 7th of September last by a letter to Philip Sansom direct him to put certain Articles on Board the said Ship on account of the Memorialists together with what Freight he could procure for her, and to dispatch her immediately for New York, as may appear by an Extract of the Letter hereunto annexed marked No 1.

That the Memorialists so far from Entertaining any Design to Counteract the measures recommended by the late Continental Congress did as soon as they were informed thereof, Countermand the abovementioned order except as to such goods, as might in Consequence thereof have actually become the property of the Memorialists and their Partner the said Philip Sansom for the truth of which they beg leave to Refer to the annexed Extract of a letter to the said Philip Sansom Dated the 5th of October 1774 mark'd No 2.

That in pursuance of the above Directions there were Shipped on Board the *Buelah* (a Vessel belonging to Memorialists) at London Sundry Goods on account of the Memorialists and their Partner with which Goods the said vessel Sail'd for New York on the 5th or 6th Day of December last and arrived there the 16th or 17th Day of February following.

That on the arrival of the said Vessel and Cargo which happened after the time limited by the Congress for the continuance of our Importation, the Memorialists having no Intention to Land their goods contrary to the Terms of the [Continental] Association would have cheerfully submitted to what they conceived to be the Spirit and Design thereof and were therefore willing and did offer to unload their Cargo and Ship it in another Bottom under the Inspection of some of the Committee here and to send it to some place not within the Restriction imposed by the Congress and the Memorialists beg Leave to Refer to the annexed Copy of their Letter sent to the Committee upon this Subject marked No 3 containing more at large their proposal and the Reasons on which it was founded.

The Memorialists beg leave further to observe that they did really believe their Construction of this part of the Association was consistent with the Spirit and Design thereof and had the Committee here been of that opinion such a Mode of Compliance would have greatly alleviated the Loss of the Memorialists as they might in that Case have Shipped their Cargo away in a small vessel instead of sending it in a vessel not above $\frac{1}{3}$ full.

That reduced as they thought to an unnecessary hardship & chagrined with the Disappointment The Memorialists rashly formed the Design of Secretly Landing some small part of the Cargo and were so imprudent as to carry the same into Execution. That before a discovery was made thereof and at a time when the Memorialists had great reasons to suppose the place where the Goods were deposited would not be discovered to wit the 13th March last they made a Declaration of the Fact and offered to give the Committee a full account of the particulars on Oath which they accordingly did on the 15th of the same Month, when all the Goods Landed had been delivered up to the Committee of Elizabeth Town and the Disposition thereof submitted entirely to the Directions of the committee at New York all which particulars will more fully appear from [John] Holt's New York Journal of the 23d March hereunto also annexed to which the Memorialists refer.

The Memorialists having proceeded thus far and manifested their Intention to satisfy the public in any reasonable way that could be expected as well as to Express their Contrition for the hasty and imprudent measure they had taken, and to prevent their future Commercial Intercourse with others from becoming the

means of other Infractions of the Association. The Memorialists did Shut up their Store, discontinue all Trade, Shut up their own Goods under the Seals of certain Persons here Transferred their Commission Business to others and gave up their Wharfs as free for the use of the Navigation of the City untill, they should be relieved in the premises by the Interposition of the Congress, as Vouchers of these Facts the Memorialists refer to the annexed printed publications marked No 5 & No 6.

The foregoing is a true State of the Facts relative to this unhappy affair in which the Memorialists are involved and as their Commercial Concerns were large and extensive at least amounting to £50,000 per annum this total dereliction of Business has become an immense Loss to them and if unrelieved cannot but terminate in their Ruin. That Mr Philip Sansom their Partner who has been distinguished for his warm attachment to American Liberty tho not concern'd in the indiscreet Step taken by the Memorialists is yet involved in all its fatal Consequences That besids the weight of Distress and Sufferings to which the Memorialists themselves have been exposed not only from their great Loss but the Resentment of an incensed People their present Scituation must be attended with a train of Evils to the Innocent who are connected with them in Business. Their Creditors must suffer Those who depend on their large Commercial Business for Bread are turned out of Employ and the Public deprived of the advantages which necessarily flow from a continuance of their Trade and Commerce. That the Memorialists presume the American Congress from the great and important ends of their Convention will move only on Public principles and therefore think it improper to address their tender and benevolent feelings not doubting but every generous and humane sentiment towards the Memorialists which is consistent with the public good will have their due influence in a determination of this Subject in which the Memorialists are so deeply interested. Permit them then to hope that this August and respectable Body, from a consideration of the Conduct of the Memorialists in this affair from their most earnest endeavours to atone in some measure for their indiscretion from the great and Complicated Distress they have already sustained, from the Circumstance that the Innocent are deeply involved in their sufferings, and that a continuation of their sufferings can only perpetuate their Calamities without advancing the important Ends of public Safety, will in their Wisdom reinstate the Memorialists in their Scituation with respect to their Commercial Priviledges.

[New York, May 14, 1775] ²

Robert Murray
John Murray

1. *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts, N.Y.*, I, 93, 94.

2. The memorial was presented on May 15, 1775.

15 May

“[CONTINUATION OF] LETTER FROM FALMOUTH TO A GENTLEMAN IN
WATERTOWN” ¹

[Monday, May 15, 1775] P.S. Being disappointed last Saturday of sending the above, I am now able to add something more. Captain [Henry] Mowat

sent a letter to the Town on Saturday, informing them that he had heard that fort guns were going to be brought in and replaced, in order to destroy his ship; and demanding of the Town to return his boats, and drive out of Town the cowardly mob that was here. The Selectmen warned a Town-Meeting, to meet at eight o'clock, Monday morning. They met accordingly and gave Mowat such an answer as pleased him: "That the Town disapproved of the proceedings of the armed body, but that we were unable to resist them."

The Reverend Mr. [John] Wiswal went on board ship on Saturday; and Sabbath morning sent to his Wardens that he should not preach in the church, but that they might come on board if they pleased, and hear him. None went. Some say he has taken a final leave of his people; how it is I cannot yet find out. His family remains here, and he is gone to Portsmouth; some say and think to get himself a settlement there. His people seem to be universally set against him, except a few high Tories, and wish never to see his face any more.

Yesterday Mowat and [Thomas] Coulson and their ships departed for Portsmouth.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 555.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Canceaux*, HENRY MOWAT, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Moored in Falmouth Harbor Casco Bay

Monday 15 A M Modt and Variable, unmoored, and got under Sail as did the Ship ² and Sloop under convoy, and *Spinckes* [*Sphynx*] Tender
Fired two three Prs as Signals to Do – 1/2 past 1 P M Anchd under
Hogs Isld.

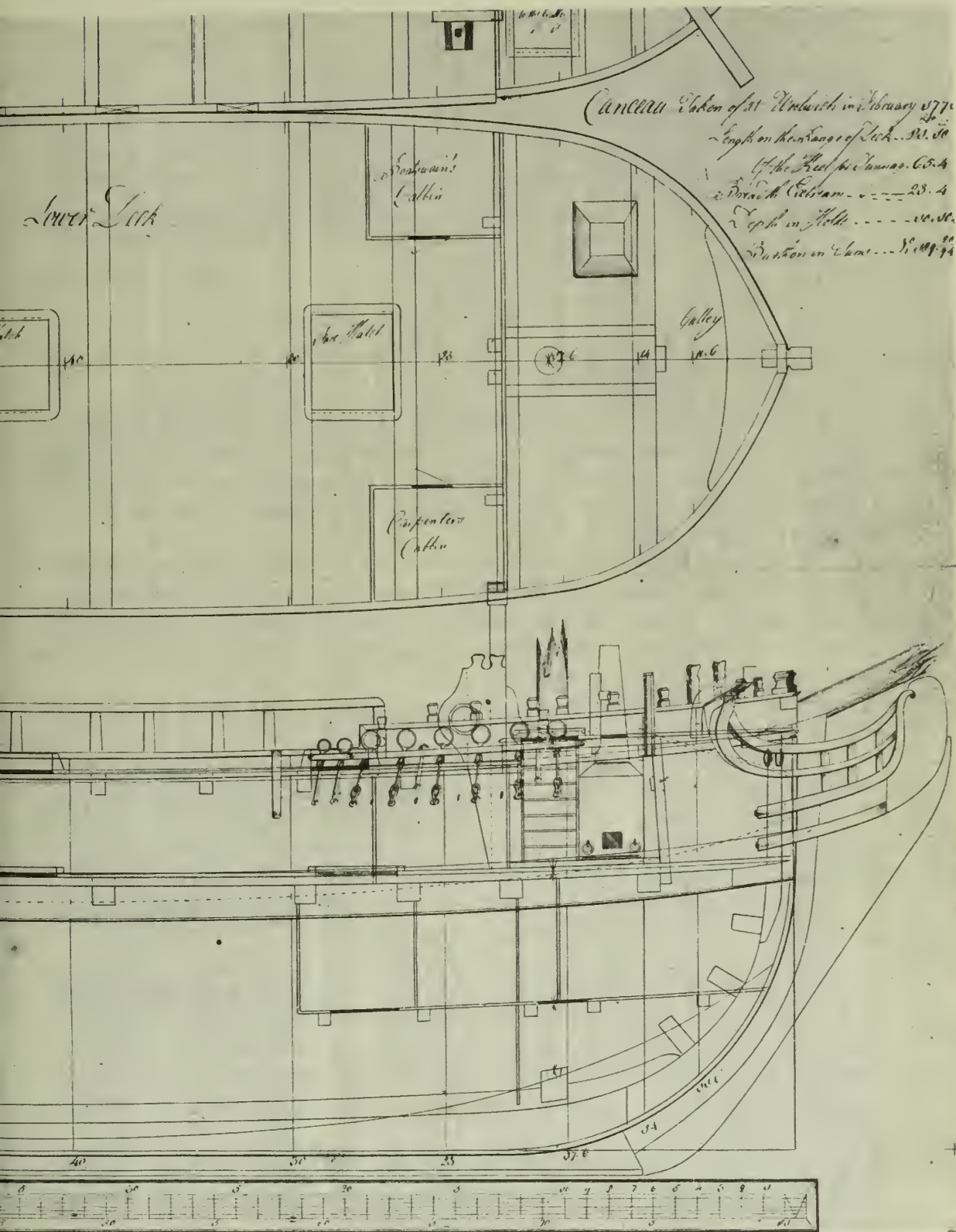
1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4136.

2. The merchant ship *Minerva*.

ELBRIDGE GERRY TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Sir Mr White of Marblehead from Boston who has been an Addresser, was dismissed yesterday after having been taken in a Vessel of his own with Salt & carried up to that place – He informs the Inhabitants of Marblehead that a transport arrived there yesterday with 150 Troops & sailed from Ireland in Company with 33 more, which had on board 8 Regiments 350 Recruits & 1 Regiment of Dragoons.² he parted with 17 of them on Fryday last & It was supposed when they all arrived that they would be 12000 strong, but I cannot conceive that there will be this Number notwithstanding which it may be highly necessary to be ready for such an Army – this I have by a Brother from Marblehead just arrived who recd it from White & thought it proper to apprise You of it to be communicated to Congress if necessary –

He likewise adds an Anecdote of a Vessel in Marblehead loaded with Molasses under Custody of the Sloop of War posted there ³ which the Inhabitants boarded the last Night they slipped her Cables & after running her into the



Wharf Where a Number of our Men armed were posted to receive her they unloaded her Cargo & saved the whole – I am in much Haste Sir [&c.]

Elbridge Gerry

Monday Morning [May 15, 1775]⁴

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 276.

2. The troops which sailed from Ireland were the 35th, 49th and 63d regiments of foot, and the 17th regiment of Dragoons, with 500 drafts and recruits, comprising the first contingent, ordered to Boston, and the 22d, 40th, 44th and 45th regiments of foot, the second contingent, ordered to New York. Gage Papers, CL.

3. H.M.S. *Lively*, the vessel stationed in Marblehead Harbor at that time under orders from Vice Admiral Samuel Graves, had begun on April 22, 1775, to stop every vessel coming into that port. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

4. The date is established by Graves's report of the arrival of the first transport with troops; Graves's Conduct, I, 89, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO THE CAPTAINS AND COMMANDERS OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS AT BOSTON ¹

It having been found necessary to alter the present Mode of permitting Persons and Effects to depart, and to prevent as much as possible People and Goods being carried away by Stealth at unusual times and Places, You are hereby required and directed to observe the following Regulations which are to take Place tomorrow Morning. Vizt

The Men of War lying nearest are forthwith to send their Boats and bring every small Vessel Fishing, and other Boats and Canoes, to the long Wharf, from whence they are always to sail in future and from no other place in Boston: Of course every fishing Boat, Market Boat and all other small Craft coming in are to be compelled to go to the Long wharf.

All Persons with their Effects leaving the Town are to embark at the Long wharf and at no other Place.

The General has appointed Mr John Fleming to examine all Chests, Trunks and Packages whatever, and to write his Name upon them when examined.

When Mr Fleming has marked the Packages as aforesaid he will certify the Number on the Permit which is also to contain the names of the Persons allow'd to depart. Captain [John] Robinson ² will then and not before sign the Permit.

No Persons or Effects to be suffered to go out but in the manner above prescribed and only between Sunrise and Sunset.

This Order is not meant to prevent the Men of War's Boats from landing at any part of the Town, nor the General's Vessels or Transports Boats from passing as they shall have Occasion; Nor the passing of the Ferry Boats as usual: but these and all other Vessels and Boats going out of the Harbour with my Pass are to be equally liable to be visited by the Men of War's Boats, who are respectively to be answerable for the punctual Observance of these Regulations so far as they concern the Navy.

Given under my Hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston* at Boston 15 May 1775

By Command of the Admiral G[eorge] Gefferina

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 417, 418, MassHS Transcript.

2. Captain of Graves's flagship, the *Preston*.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Copy./

Boston May 15th 1775.

Sir As Mr Icabod Jones has exerted himself in Supplying this Garrison, with Wood Lumber &c for his Majesty's use; And for which reason cannot get any Supply of Provisions from any other place but this, as his Settlement is detached, he has my permission to carry Twenty Barrels Pork, and Twenty Barrels Flour, from this for the use of the New Settlers at Mechias – as he promises to continue as usual every Supply in his power.

I am with Regard and Esteem, Sir, &ca

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir,

Boston 15th May 1775

In consequence of Your Excellency's Letter of Yesterday, I have ordered the Captains of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under my Command to seize all Vessels they may meet with having Provisions, Arms or Ammunition Onboard, and not suffer them to enter any of the Ports of this Province but to send them immediately to Boston. I have the Honor to be with great Regard, Sir, [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE
BRITISH ADMIRALTY ¹

Sir,

Preston Boston 15th May 1775

I have this moment by the *Fowey's* Tender received a Letter from Lord Dunmore, a Copy of which I inclose; I would readily send a two decked ship to Virginia, but the preservation of this post and perhaps the whole Army here depends upon the Naval Force in this Harbour. I therefore cannot in the present State of Affairs send any more of the Capital Ships from hence; indeed the *Somerset* is unfit to go, for notwithstanding her sheathing has been stripped off six Streaks and so much of her Bottom caulked, yet she makes the same quantity of water as before, and must therefor go to Halifax this Summer if possible.

Captain [George] Montagu of the *Fowey* informs me that the Contractor for supplying the King's Ships at Virginia with Provisions is forbid by the people to send any more, so what he now procured must be by Stealth.

I expect Captain [John] Linzee of the *Falcon* to arrive every hour with the Ship *Champion*; she has on board Eight hundred Barrels of Flour and some Corn intended for the Rebel Army.

I have given Orders to secure and bring to Boston all Vessels with Provisions agreeable to the Governor's request of Yesterday, a Copy of which I inclose, And we have written to the Governors of Quebec and Nova Scotia to facilitate the sending Supplies of fresh provisions and necessaries to Boston. We hope in a short time to have sufficient for the sick; but it is forbidden under pain of death by the Rebels at Cambridge to supply the Town of Boston.

Two Transports with Marines came in Yesterday, a Signal is now out for more, I hope they will be by Tomorrow.

I am [&c.]

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 88, 89, MassHS Transcript.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] May 15th [1775].

By a Letter from Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, the people in that Colony were taking up Arms in all parts of it, and his Lordship was threatened with every Species of Violence unless he restored some Gunpowder, which he had thought proper to remove from a Magazine in Williamsburgh on Board the *Fowey* and *Magdalen* Schooner; and the Commotion becoming more general his Excellency applied to General [Thomas] Gage and the Admiral for such Assistance as could be spared. And Captain George Montagu of the *Fowey* at Virginia, in a Letter dated May 3d acknowledging the Receipt of the Admiral's Order of the 9th of April to raise one hundred Seamen for the Fleet, acquainted him that the Inhabitants of Norfolk, where the Contractors Agent resided, had refused to suffer Supplies of Provisions and Necessaries to be sent on board for the use of the *Fowey* and *Magdalen* Schooner and that he (Capt. Montagu) had at the request of Ld Dunmore stopped the *Magdalen* from proceeding to the Delaware.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 90, MassHS Transcript.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO WILLIAM LEGGE, LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

(No 30)

Boston May 15th 1775

My Lord, I received yesterday a Letter from Lord Dunmore of which I transmit your Lordship a Copy; His Situation appears so very alarming that I fear the Assistance in my Power to give him will avail but little I have however Sent him an Order for the Company of the 14th Regiment at [New] Providence, and most part of the Remainder of said Regiment at St Augustine, as he thinks any Assistance tho' small, might be of some use to him; and we hear by a private Letter that a Declaration his Lordship had made, of Proclaiming all the Negroes free who should join him, has startled the Insurgents. From what can be learned it is not found that one Province is in a better Situation than another, the People called Friends of Government are few in all, and those Moderate Men, who abhor violent Proceedings and wish for Peace and quiet; the opposite Party numerous, active and violent.

Two hundred and twenty Six Marines with their Officers under the Command of Major Tupper landed this Morning from two Transports; so that we may expect the remainder of that Corps daily, the Sooner the other Reinforcements intended for this Place arrive, the better it will be.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/92.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 15th. [May, 1775]

The Marines which arrived yesterday (part of 600 expected) encamp'd today on the Common.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 47.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Off Castle William [Island Boston Harbor]

Monday 15 at 7A M sent the long Boat after 3 Rebels in a Canoe, but they landed before she came up & being joined by a great Number of their own body fired several shot at the Boat. made a signal for her to return. Rowd Guard as before.

[P M] at 9 saw a Number of armed Men on Dorchester Hill.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Nautilus*, JOHN COLLINS, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 The Land about Marshfield SWbW 4 or 5 Leagues

Monday. 15. at ½ past 10 [A M] fired a Shot to bring a Sloop too – Little Wind and Hazy Wr P M, at 2 spoke a Sloop from Cape Codd for Casco Bay; sent a Petty Officer and 2 Men to carry her into Boston; at 6 spoke a Sloop from Cape Ann to the Wt Indies with Lumber; at 9 spoke the *Diana* Schooner, and ½ past fired several Musquets and brought a Sloop too from Sheepscut with Lumber; sent a Petty Officer and 2 Men on board to carry her to Boston.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/629.
2. Vessels sent into Boston and arriving there prior to June 1 had their cargoes confiscated, but were not tried in Admiralty Court. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] May 15. [1775]

It is said that two Tenders were plundering or intended stealing Sheep at No-man's Land &c – & that the Dartmo[uth] p[eo]ple man'd out and took both & bro't them in to Dartmo – Some of the Man o' Wars' Men were wounded, but none killed on either side.²

1. Stiles, II, 71, LC.
2. See letter from Newport, May 10, 1775.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO JOHN LAWRENCE, TREASURER OF CONNECTICUT ¹

Sir

New London May 15th 1775

I Received yours 11th Instant and you may Depend on my Supplying you with the Quantity of Powder you Mention Vizt Six Hundred half Barrels – I am now Getting a Vessel in Readiness and Intend she shall Sail in a few Days I shall Call on You Next Week. I Am Sir [&c.]

Nathe^l Shaw Jun^r

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

JOURNAL KEPT BY ELEAZER OSWALD ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN ¹

Tuesday, [May] 15 [16].² Contrary winds. Col. [Benedict] Arnold, with thirty men took the boat, and proceeded on for St. John's, leaving to Capt. Sloan the command of the vessel with the sailors; and me to the command of the soldiers on board: About 12 o'clock, while beating down, we espied a boat, sent out our Cockswain to bring her in, it proved to be the French post from Montreal, with Ensign Moland on board, we examined the mail, and among other things found an exact list of all the regular troops in the northern department, amounting to upwards of seven hundred.

1. "Oswald's Journal."

2. This entry was misdated. See p. 327.

ISAAC LOW, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED OF NEW YORK,
TO PEYTON RANDOLPH, PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen:

New York, May 15, 1775

We have this moment received by express from Albany, the within authentick intelligence of the fortress of Ticonderoga having been surprised and taken by a detachment of Provincials from Connecticut and the Massachusetts-Bay. And as we do not conceive ourselves authorized to give any opinion upon a matter of such importance, we have thought proper to refer it to the Congress; and that the people of Albany may be acquainted with the sentiments of that Assembly as early as possible, their express, who is the bearer hereof, will carry any dispatches the Congress may think proper to send on the occasion to the City of Albany, by a short route from Philadelphia.

We have already wrote to the Committee of Albany in answer to their letters to us, referred to in the enclosed; but it seems our letters were not come to hand.

We are, Gentlemen, [&c.]

By order of the Committee:

Isaac Low, Chairman

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 605.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, May 15, 1775

The president informed the Congress that he had put into his hands this morning a letter from [Robert and John] Murray containing a number of papers which he was desired to lay before the congress, the purport of them he did not know as he had not had an opportunity of reading them.

Ordered to lye on the table That the president look them over [and then lay them] before they are laid before the congress.

The City and County of New York having through the delegates of that Colony, applied to the congress for their advice how they ought to conduct themselves with regard to the troops expected there, . . .

The matter under consideration being resumed, the Congress came to the following resolution,

Resolved, That it be recommended for the present to the inhabitants of New York, that if the troops, wch are expected should arrive, the sd Colony act on the

defensive so long as may be consistent with their safety and security: that the troops be permitted to remain in the barracks, so long as they behave themselves peaceably and quietly, but that they be not suffered to erect fortifications or take any steps for cutting off the communication between the town and country; and that if they commit hostilities or invade private property, the inhabitants should defend themselves and their property and repel force by force; that the warlike stores be removed from the town; that places of retreat in case of necessity be provided for the women and children of New York; and that a sufficient number of men be embodied and kept in constant readiness for protecting the inhabitants from insult and injury. . . .

Resolved, that a committee be appointed to consider what posts are necessary to be occupied in the Colony of New York, and by what number of troops it will be necessary they should be guarded.

Resolved, That Mr. [George] Washington, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, Mr. S[amuel] Adams, and the delegates from New York, be the committee for the above service, and that they be desired to report as speedily as possible.

1. Worthington C. Ford, *et al.*, eds., *Journals of the Continental Congress* (Washington, 1904–1937), II, 49–53. Hereafter cited as Ford, ed., *JCC*.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU,
COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 York S S W Gloucester Point No off shore 1/2 a Mile
Monday 15. A M the parties of seamen and Marines returned from the Governour's at Williamsburgh.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

(No. 27) Duplicate

Williamsburg 15th May 1775

My Lord The Commotion in this Colony, of the Cause of which I gave your Lordship an Account in my letter No 26 dated the 1st of May, has obliged me to Shut myself in, and make a Garrison of my house, expecting every moment to be attacked. There is scarce a County of the whole Colony wherein part of the People have not taken up Arms and declared their intention of forcing me to make restitution of the Powder; bodies of different Numbers have been in Motion in all parts of the Colony, who have been only dissuaded from pursuing their attempts by the interposition of Some less violent People, and Compelled to lay down their Arms and atone for their offences by the Justice of the Country or the Support due from Subjects to their lawfull Government.

A Party headed by a Certain Patrick Henry, one of the Delegates of this Colony, a Man of desperate Circumstances, and one who has been very active in encouraging disobedience and exciting a Spirit of revolt among the People for many years past, Advanced to within a few Miles of this Place, and there encamped with all the appearances of actual War, Stopping and detaining every passenger on the road coming this way for fear of my obtaining intelligence of their motions; Henry,

their leader dispatching letters all over the Country to excite the People to Join him; and he Sent one particularly to direct that the People of the County of York should prevent, at all events, any Succour being Sent to me from the Man of War lying at York or my retreat to the Man of War.

While they were in this position they found means, by threatening the person family and Property of His Majesty's Receiver General, Mr [Richard] Corbin, to extort the Sum of £300, from him which they thought proper to demand out of the Kings Revenue to replace the Powder which I had removed out of the Magazine, having obtained this they have declared themselves Satisfied and Justice done to the Country for the Insult I had Committed, and have returned triumphantly to their respective habitations . . .

I transmit to your Lordship two Proclamations which I have issued on this occasion; the first of which I thought proper to publish together with the Minute of Council, in hopes the names of the Gentlemen who advised it, from their Credit with the People, might induce those who have Joined in Such dangerous Measures from ignorance, to pay the greater attention to the warning it contained . . . ever in the Place where I live Drums are beating and Men in uniform dresses with Arms are continually in the Streets, which my Authority is no longer able to prevent, your Lordship will I hope See the Necessity of Sending me Instructions upon the occasion, and of putting me in a Situation of Safety.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/1353, LC Transcript.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS, LONDON ¹

[Extract]

Charles Town. 15th May 1775.

p. *Le Despenser*

You will have heard before this reaches you of the "actual commencement of Hostilities" in New England against the Inhabitants by the Kings Troops & more particulars of the Action of the 19th April than we yet know of in this Country – the Associated Colonies have taken the alarm & but three days ago I put the Question "is it your pleasure Gentlemen to agree with your Committee"? when the following association was Unanimously approved of –

"The actual Commencement of Hostilities against this Continent – the threats of arbitrary impositions from abroad – & the dread of instigated Insurrections at home – are causes Sufficient to drive an oppressed people to the use of Arms: We therefore the Subscribers, Inhabitants of this unhappy Colony holding ourselves bound by that most Sacred of all obligations, the duty of good Citizens towards an injured Country, & thoroughly convinced that under our present distressed circumstances we Shall be justified before God & Man in resisting force by force; do unite our Selves under every tie of Religion & of honour & associate as a band in her defence against every Foe & we do Solemnly promise that whenever her Continental or provincial Councils Shall decree it necessary we will go forth & be ready to Sacrifice our Lives & fortunes in attempting to Secure her Freedom & Safety." – This Association I Say was unanimously approved of in the General Committee 48 Members present – it will be recommended to the Provincial Congress at their first meeting on the first of June – I have no doubt of a

favourable reception there & believe it will be Subscribed to by the Inhabitants throughout this Colony – in the mean time the daily & nightly Sound of Drums & Fifes discover a Spirit in the people to make all possible resistance against that arbitrary power complained of – upwards of one hundred Men besides the common Town Watch mount guard every Night & Committees of observation, of Intelligence & of Safety find employment every Day – in a word the people are resolved to do all in their power to resist against the force & Stratagems of the British Ministry – & I find that even among those few who are Suspected of disaffection to the Americans, there are many & perhaps a Majority who will in the day of trial appear on the Side of the American Cause. –

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–75, SCHS.

16 May

“REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER”¹

May 1775 at ½ past 11 P M heard 2 Guns in the Offing, answered with 1
Tuesday 16th Nine pounder & sent the Boats out

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF MASSACHUSETTS¹

[Cambridge] May 16, 1775

Whereas, it is recommended by the Council of War, that fifty-four Whale-Boats be, provided for the use of this Colony immediately –

Resolved, That a copy of said Vote of the Council of War be transmitted to the Committee of Supplies, and they be desired to procure & place said Boats, agreeably to the recommendation by the Council of War.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS¹

[Watertown] Tuesday, May 16, 1775, A.M.

Ordered, That Mr. [James] Sullivan, Capt [Josiah] Stone, Colo [Michael] Farley, Major [Eleazer] Brooks, and Doctr Rawson, be a Committee to take into consideration a verbal information of the Capture of three Vessels, by a Kings Cutter, at Dartmouth, and the retaking two of them, & 15 Marines prisoners

The Committee who were appointed to consider the information from Dartmouth reported. The Report was recommitted for further examination.²

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

2. See Journal of H.M.S. *Falcon* for May 11 and 12, 1775.

WILLIAM THOMPSON TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

Sir

Hartford, May 16, 1775

I tarried Yesterday in hope of seeing you here, but suppose you was necessarily prevented from coming – it's necessary for me to set out this Morning that I may know in Time whether my Employers will engage in the Adventure p your

Schooner *Macaroni* – and beg you will detain her untill you receive Intelligence from me, which I will forward immediately after I have consulted them – I have left with Mr Jonathan Trumbull & requested him to deliver you Thirty one pounds Ten shillings Sterling which I desire the favour of you to send on my Accot p Capt [William] Packwood for this Purpose expressed in the Receipt –

I am in haste

Your hble Servt

W^m Thompson

1. Shaw Collection, Packet No. 3, YUL.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR'S RECEIPT TO WILLIAM THOMPSON ¹

Hartford May 16, 1775

Received of William Thompson Thirty One pounds ten shillings Sterling Money which I promise to deliver to Capt James Packwood ² Master of my Schooner *Macaroni*, bound from New London for the West Indies, and to give Directions to said Packwood to lay out the same in purchase of good Gun Powder at the lowest price he can buy it, to be brought back in said Schooner for Accot of said Thompson, for which he is to allow said Packwood five P Cent Commis-sion and to pay at the Rate of [blank] for the Freight of every hundred Weight

1. Shaw Collection, Packet No. 3, YUL.

2. Although the receipt states "James", the master of the *Macaroni* was "William" Packwood.

JOURNAL KEPT BY ELEAZER OSWALD ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN ¹

Wednesday, [May] 16 [17].²

A fair gale, we overtook Col. [Benedict] Arnold in the boat, took him on board, and at night arrived within thirty miles of St. John's, when the wind fell, and the vessel was becalmed. We immediately armed our two boats, manned them with thirty-five men, and determined by dint of rowing to fetch St. John's and take the place and the King's sloop by surprize at break of day.

1. "Oswald's Journal."

2. This entry was misdated. See p. 327.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, May 16, 1775

The President after explaining the nature of the letter delivered to him yesterday.

A memorial from Robert and John Murray, of New-York, was laid before the Congress, and read.

Ordered, That it lye up[on] the table.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 53.

"EXTRACTS OF LETTERS FROM PHILADELPHIA TO GENTLEMEN IN BALTIMORE, MAY 16, 1775" ¹

On Sunday a ship, Capt. Byrne, arrived here from Liverpool, which she left the 3d of April, and advised us of a ship, Jones, master, being loaded with salt and some dry goods, which would sail in a few days after him, for this port,

and that the ship *Johnston*, belonging to Mr. Gildart of Liverpool, was loaded with salt and dry goods, by the house of Messrs. Ashton, and bound to your port. You may daily look for your ship, as we do for ours; we have already given directions to our pilots, &c. to watch her motions . . . It is said, from good authority, that Mr. Leister, of Pool, has 4 ships coming out to America, to load with bread &c. for Newfoundland; be careful that some of them dont load with you. If any of them comes here, I think they will hardly return.

A vessel arrived yesterday from Liverpool, whose captain has brought a quantity of cheese, which he must carry back. He informs us that a ship was ballasting with salt for this place, and one or two for yours. they will be taken care of and I hope your Committee will take care of those going your way. A good look-out ought to be kept, that people acting knowingly, in direct opposition to our engagements, may not escape; and it is well if these ships, on hearing how things are at your Capes, do not land their dry goods in some part of the bay. All goods on board should be taken possession of by the Committee, and indeed ship and all should be sent back; the salt at least thrown into the sea, and the goods returned by the ship.

1. *Maryland Journal*, Baltimore, May 24, 1775.

WILLIAM REYNOLDS TO JOHN NORTON & SONS ¹

Gentlemen

Virginia May 16th 1775

My last was 6t April, since which I have recd your two favours of 6t Jany and 28 Feby by which I am agreeably informed of the Insurance being made on my Tobo in the *Martin*, I observe what you say relative to the *Virginia*. I can assure you that Affair has not given me a little concern, but am in hopes that your letter of Justification will satisfy every unprejudiced person. Your J H.N's delaying the publication of it a week was productive of some other disagreeable resolves from Gloster as you will see in one of our Papers ² tho' I am informed that Committee is now called to revoke them, there has a Query appeared in one of our papers whether Mr Gist's Ship ought to have any Tobo as one of the Owners Mr Wilkinson had Charter'd two of his Ships to bring Transports to America.³

You will no doubt ere this have heard of the unhappy Engagement that has hapned at Concord near Boston with 900 Provincials & 1800 Regulars in which Skirmish the Regulars retreated with the loss of 150 Men, 100 wounded & 20 more taken Prisoners, the Provincials only lost 43 Men. We have been a good deal alarmed in our little Town ⁴ & Williamsburg lately, by some impolitick & unwarrantable proceedings of our Governor & Capt [George] Montague, of the *Fowey* who lays off[f] this Town. the latter wrote a letter to the President about ten days since informing him that he had information the Governor was to be attacked that morning in his Palace & therefore thought it necessary to send him assistance from his Ship & at the same time to inform the Inhabitants of York that if they were interrupted in their March to Williamsburg or insulted on their Arrival there, he shou'd be under the necessity of firing on the Town ⁵ this Alarm occasioned poor old Mrs Light, & some other helpless Women & Children to leave the Town Our situation at present is exceedingly unhappy, & God knows when it will mend You dont mention any thing of Colo [Dudley] Digges Bill remitted

you by the *Virginia*. I recd & debited you with the sales of the 4 hhds Tobo shipt you P the *Hanbury* Nett proceeds £31.16.6 which is a better Accot. than I have recd for sometime before. I have lately shipt Messrs Pasley's & Co a Cargoe of Corn which I expect will sell for near £400 sterling ⁶ I have directed them to remitt the Nett proceeds to you & shou'd be glad you wou'd pay £100 thereof to Mr Lawrence, & Credit my Accot for the ballance. Inclosed you will receive a small draft of Owen Williams on Mr Molleson for £23.7.7 which you will please to receive Credit my Accot for the same. I shall send you some Tobacco by the *Virginia* but as I do not at present know how many hhds must defer writing for Insurance till next opportunity Tobo is scarce & has rise very rapidly. the Scotch are buying all they can at the high price of 27/6. I wou'd send you some of our late papers but as this goes by the way of Glasgow, they wou'd be attended with too heavy a postage, my respectfull Compliments to Mrs Norton &ca.

1. William Reynolds Letter Book, LC.

2. For the Gloucester resolve, see May 2, 1775.

3. The Query is in Purdie's *Virginia Gazette, Supplement*, May 5, 1775.

4. Yorktown.

5. See George Montagu's letter, May 2, 1775.

6. See Reynold's letter to Paisley of April 30, 1775.

ALEXANDER INNES TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

My Lord,

Charles Town, May 16, 1775

I did myself the honor of writing You the 1st of this month, when I took the liberty of giving Your Lordship the best account in my power of the present state of this Province: every day's experience convinces me more and more of the justice of the observations I then made, nor have I one word to retract of what I wrote.

The Lieutenant Governor after adjourning the Assembly to the 1st of June, and calling a Council to settle the ceremonial of the new Governor's reception, retired into the Country. Every thing remained quiet here, the Committee continuing to sit with great Assiduity and secrecy, till the 5th instant, when they published a Letter to their Provincial Congress which Your Lordship will find in the News papers I enclose, and confirms my Account of the manner they received that conciliatory motion, which the Humanity and Tenderness of the King's ministers alone dictated.²

A few days ago we had Accounts of an Action near Boston, but very confused, and carrying evident Marks of falsehood, and misrepresentation; but as it cannot at present be contradicted it has raised the spirit of the party most astonishingly, and nothing less is talked of than storming Boston, and totally destroying the British Troops. Violent resolutions have since been proposed in the Committee here, but the moderate party have so far prevailed, that they seem *now* resolved to take no desperate steps till after the meeting of the Provincial Congress, which they have appointed on the 1st of next month instead of the 20th; but they declare on every occasion, that if any attempt is made to seize their Delegates, all the servants of Government here will be immediately secured as Hostages, and sent into the back country.

It is said that as soon as the Provincial Congress meets it will be proposed to raise 2000 men, which they mean to pay by voluntary Tax of a moidore³ on each negroe. A Test and Association is already framed, to be presented to every inhabitant in the Province, and those who refuse to sign it will be under a necessity of leaving the country. Some of the most moderate object to its being offered to the servants of Government, and will oppose that step in the Congress, but I should apprehend it will be carried against them, and if General [Thomas] Gage does not strike some successful blow within a few weeks, I have not a doubt but that there will be a total change of Government here, and the very slight mask they now condescend to wear entirely thrown off.

A Letter has been read in their Committee from a Mr. [Arthur] Lee in London informing them that it had been proposed to Ministry to grant freedom to such Slaves as should desert their Masters and join the King's troops; this has raised a great ferment, and furnished the Committee with a *pretext* to mount a Guard of 100 men every evening, with a Patrol of Horsemen. They had decency enough to send two of their body to the Chief Justice Mr. Gordon, the eldest Councillor then in Town, *not to ask his leave*, but to acquaint him with their intentions; for the Guard was ordered, and mounted that evening; he immediately dispatched an Express to the Lieutenant Governor who came to Town next day, called a Council, and gave his Sanction to a measure which was taken without his privity. He immediately returned to his Retreat.

At this Council Mr. Barnard Elliot resigned his Seat at the Board, and Mr. John Drayton it is said means to follow his Example. His son William Henry Drayton is under suspension, and is one of the most virulent Incendarys in the Province, so that the Council is reduced to Mr. Skottowe the Secretary/Mr. Gordon the Chief Justice/Mr. Irving the Receiver General/Mr. Gregory the Judge and/Mr. William Bull Junior, a very young man indeed, who knows not as yet of his Appointment, but who I dare say will not accept the Honour intended him as he is strongly linked to the other party.

In this situation My Lord little remains for the New Governor⁴ to do but to guard against giving the Sanction of the little Authority he possesses to the dangerous measures the people here are pursuing. Of the Assembly he must be particularly careful: they have a Tax Bill now ready to present to the Council, which they know neither that House nor the Governor can give their assent to; for I have great reason to think the Original Bone of contention 1500 £ to the Bill of Rights Society is in some way or other provided for in it, and I *know* there is another Article no less exceptionable viz a Grant of 3000 £ sterling to the 8 Delegates now at the General Congress. The moment this Bill is rejected they will be prepared to open their *Bank*, and issue Certificates to what amount they please; I shall therefore think it my duty strongly to recommend to His Excellency to be prepared to dissolve them before they have time to give their proceedings the least Colour of Legality.

After this I see nothing His Lordship can do but to wait with patience to take the advantage of any change that may be produced by the success of his Majesty's measures to the Northward, in the mean time giving all the Encouragement, and

Countenance in his power to the friends of Government here, but Protection He cannot afford them.

I hope Your Lordship will not think me guilty of too much presumption if I beg leave with great submission to observe that two Regiments in this place under a *proper Officer* would prevent many rash and disagreeable Steps that will in all probability be taken. The situation of this Province between Georgia that has refused to join the Congress and North Carolina where there are many friends of Government, added to its great Opulence, renders some force much to be wished for; and as things are come to such an extremity would tend greatly to promote His Majesty's service. If even a couple of Frigates under the Command of a *Spirited, Steady, Cool Officer* were stationed in this harbour, the good effects of such a measure would soon be seen; but the King's Friends in this Province, (who are not a few if they durst appear) are in the lowest state of despondency, expecting every moment to be drove from their Occupations, and Homes, and plundered of all they have earned by the unremitted industry of many years.

This is a Freedom my Lord which nothing but the warmest Zeal for the Service of my Sovereign and my Country could excuse: a freedom which this moment, in this place would cost me my Life were it known; but when I had Your Lordship's permission to write you on the state of Carolina, I was determined that while I conveyed assured facts, I would have no reserve in declaring my sentiments, flattering myself it would be the strongest proof I could give of the perfect Respect with which I have the Honor to be My Lord [&c.]

Alex: Innes

N.B. Although the Action near Boston happened the 19th of last month, except such an Account as Your Lordship will see in the Papers published under their own influence, not a tittle is known either in this or the neighbouring Provinces. Many gross and infamous flasehoods will therefore be daily circulated to the great discouragement of the Friends of Government, the deception of the Timid, and Unwary, and of course to the Detriment of the King's Service; nor can it be prevented but by regular intelligence from General Gage by Sea.

1. Dartmouth Mss., 1270. Printed *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, July, 1962, pp. 127-130.
2. Lord North's conciliatory resolution of February 1775.
3. Moidore, a Portuguese coin worth 27 shillings.
4. Lord William Campbell, who was shortly expected in the province, and to whom Innes had been appointed private secretary.

17 May

HUNKING WENTWORTH, CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE OF PORTSMOUTH, TO
PRESIDENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS, EXETER ¹

Sir A Brig from Biddeford in England arrived this day the Master of whom has just been with the Committee & acquaint them that his orders are to take on board six Masts of about sixteen inches diameter.

We are inform'd that the ship lately built at Casco Bay (which arrived in the Harbour this morning) is come with an intention to load Masts which are now ready for her. The opinion of the Congress touching the Propriety of shipping the Masts is desired as soon as may be.

We have heard that part of the Troops from England arrived yesterday at Boston.

I am by order of the Comtee Sr [&c.]

Portsmouth 17th May 1775

H. Wentworth, Chairman

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 471, 472.

“REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER”¹

May 1775 at 4 A M the Boats returned; at 8 sent of[f] Boats to the assistance
Wednesy 17th of a Ship which was on Shore.²

[P M] Came in His Majys Armed Ship *Canceaux*, & the Ship
which was on shore with our Boats;

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. The merchant ship *Minerva*.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, May 17, 1775.

A Letter from Edward Mott to this Congress, dated 11th May, 1775, giving an account of the taking of the Fortress at Ticonderoga, was read, together with a Letter from Ethan Allen. Also an application from Col. [James] Easton and others; whereupon,

Ordered, That Colonel Foster, Mr. [James] Sullivan, and Doctor [Samuel] Holten, be a Committee to introduce Colonel Easton to this House, to give a narrative of that transaction, and that each Member have liberty to ask him any questions.

Ordered, That Mr. President, Doctor [John] Taylor, Colonel Foster, Doctor [Samuel] Holten, and Mr. Cross, be a Committee to take the same into consideration and report.

The Committee appointed to consider the account of taking the Fortress of Ticonderoga, reported the following Resolve and Letter to the Assembly of Connecticut, which were accepted, and the Letter ordered to be authenticated and sent forward: Gentlemen: We have the happiness of presenting our congratulations to you on the reduction of that important fortress, Ticonderoga. We applaud the conduct of both the officers and soldiers, and are of opinion, that the advantageous situation of that fortress makes it highly expedient that it should be repaired, and properly garrisoned. In the mean time, as we suppose that there is no necessity for keeping all the cannon there, we should be extremely glad if all the battery cannon, especially brass cannon, which can be spared from that place, or procured from Crown Point (which we hope by this time is in the hands of our friends), may be forwarded this way, with all possible expedition, as we have here to contend with an Army furnished with as fine a train of artillery as ever was seen in America. And we are in extreme want of a sufficient number of cannon to fortify those important passes, without which we can neither annoy General [Thomas] Gage, if it should become necessary, nor defend ourselves against him.

We therefore must earnestly recommend this very important matter to your immediate consideration; and we would suggest it, as our opinion, that the

appointing Colonel [Benedict] Arnold to take charge of them, and bring them down, with all possible haste, may be a means of settling any disputes which may have arisen between him and some other officers, which we are always desirous to avoid, and more especially at a time when our common danger ought to unite us in the strongest bonds of unity and affection.

We are, gentlemen, &c.

This Congress having received authentick intelligence that the Fort at Ticonderoga is surrendered into the hands of Colonel Ethan Allen and others, together with the Artillery and Artillery Stores, Ammunition, &c., thereunto belonging, for the benefit of these Colonies, occasioned by the intrepid valour of a number of men under the command of the said Colonel Allen, Colonel Easton of the Massachusetts, and others; and by the advice and direction of the Committee for that expedition, the said Colonel Allen is to remain in possession of the same and its dependencies until further orders.

Resolved, That this Congress do highly approve of the same; and the General Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut are hereby desired to give directions relative to garrisoning and maintaining the same, for the future, until the advice of the Continental Congress can be had in that behalf.

And as this Colony is in want of some Battering Cannon for their defence immediately, it is further *Resolved*, That the President of this Congress be desired to write to the General Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut, desiring that they would give order for the immediate removal of some of those Cannon to this Colony, for the purpose aforesaid.

Afternoon

Ordered, That the Letters relative to taking the Fortress of Ticonderoga be delivered to the Committee of Safety.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 807-809, from Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE,
COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Off Castle William Island [Boston Harbor]
Wednesday 17 at 12 A.M. saw four armed Rebels on Dorchester Neck
 at 5 P M heard the Report & saw the smoke of two Cannon fired
 on the Main over the Westernmost point of Thompsons Island.
 at 8 called all hands to quarters. Saw a great fire in the Town
 of Boston, at 12 the Fire still burning fierce.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

2. The fire, in Dock Square, destroyed a number of buildings and was subdued with difficulty. The cause was never determined.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTYS SLOOP *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 In Tarpolean Cove
Wednesday 17 [A M] people empd working up Junk at 3 P M Weighd and
 Came to Sail at 4 fird 3 Six Pounders Shotted and Brought

too a Ship from Cape Nichola² at 5 Came too with the Bt
Br in Tarpolean Cove

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

2. The sloop *Three Friends*, Peter Guillard, master, with wine and fruit from Hispaniola, whose cargo eventually was sold to the Boston garrison, but the "vessel was too bad to proceed." Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

PETER VANDERVOORT TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

[Extract]

New York May 17th 1775

Neither the Powder or lead you was Pleased to Order is to be had here at any Rate, as our Committe on Enquiry find us very short ourselves – the flints I can service you with if you think they will do without the Powder & lead² . . . times look gloomy here, and dont seem to Alter for the better I am [&c.]

Peter Vandervoort

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

2. Shaw's order is contained in his letter of April 25, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, May 17, 1775

Upon motion,

Resolved unanimously, That all exportations to Quebec, Nova Scotia, the Island of St. John's, Newfoundland, Georgia,² except the Parish of St. John's, and to East and West Florida immediately cease, and that no provisions of any kind, or other necessaries be furnished to the British Fisheries on the American coasts until it be otherwise determined by the Congress.

Ordered, That it be published immediately.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC.*, II, 54. The resolution was printed in the *Pennsylvania Packet*, 29 May 1775.

2. *Ibid.*, 192, 193. The prohibition against Georgia ended with the arrival of Georgia Delegates in Congress in July with word that that colony had "acceded to the general Association."

Pennsylvania Journal, WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1775

Philadelphia, May 17.

A few days since suddenly departed hence, Zachariah Hood, Comptroller of the Customs for this port. – It is said he is gone in the ship *Pennsylvania Packet*, Capt. [Peter] Osborne, for London. – This same Hood was the Person who was Stamp-Master for Maryland, from which he was driven by his countrymen, since which he was appointed Comptroller for this port, and from hence it is said he has kept up a correspondence with the Minister's Secretary in London.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 17 [May, 1775]

We never had Such a fine appearance for a Crop of Wheat at this Season as at Present & I make no doubt if the Weather is Seasonable but that there will be One third more this Year than Ever was any One Year before however there

is no Probability of Getting it Shipped therefore we must Sit down & Eat & be merry & thank God for Plenty. You have Inclosed a list of Ships &c ² . . . If you Could by any Conveyance send out Some paper & Quills I want them much also two Pieces of Linnen for Shirts as I want it also it must be don Private if the Schooner ³ should Come out by Tenrief Powder & Lead would Answer if our trouble Subsists.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. See list which follows.

3. Schooner *Industry*.

LIST OF SHIPS TO SAIL FOR EUROPE FROM PORT OF BALTIMORE ¹

[Enclosure in George Woolsey's Letter of 17 May]

- May 14th A brig ² Sailed from [sic! for] Bristol (from J. Stevenson) Wheat & flour
 A do do for Lisbon ³ (Purviance) do
 A do do Campbell Master,⁴ for Bristol from Stevenson Wheat & flour
 The Ship *Hercules* ⁵ almost loaded for Bristol by J. Ewing Wheat & flour
 The Ship ——— *Dachiele* ⁶ mastr loaded with wheat & flour for Bristol Ready for Sea, belongs to A. Buchanan Loaded by him & Wm Buchanan Senr
 a brig ⁷ Ross Mastr Indn Corn & flour loaded by J. Hudson & others Ready to Sail
 Remains a Ship ⁸ belongs to S. Hudson & Lawson ——— Mastr to load Tobacco also three London ships lately arrived to Load Tobacco ⁹
 13. The Ship *Nancy* Arrived Burress Mastr from Bristol Loading Wheat & flour by Stevenson for Same place or Milford ¹⁰
 14. Cathow ¹¹ arrived & no Servants Sold
 Brig *Rogers* Philips from Belfast not fixed where she is bound ¹²
 A Snow from Belfast & Cork to J. Ewing Loading for Ireland ¹³
 The Ship *Jenny & Polly* now loading for England ¹⁴
 The Brig that Carrys this loaded by Wm Neill for London ¹⁵
 Kennedys ¹⁶ has 6000 bs in & will Sail in 10 days I shall endeavour to give you all arrivals &c &c.
 Arrived a brig to Wm. Lux from poole, not known where she goes ¹⁷
 A brig sailed for Lisbon Smith Mastr flour by D. Stewart.¹⁸

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Brig *Dolphin*, James Scott, master, 120 tons, cleared May 11, 1775.

3. Brig *Amy*, Thomas Salmon, master, 120 tons, cleared May 11.

4. Brig *Autumn*, James Campbell, master, 118 tons, cleared May 15.

5. Ship *Hercules*, John Norwood, master, 140 tons, cleared May 8.

6. Not listed in clearances in Port of Entry Books, 1745–1775, MdHS.

7. Brig *Union*, David Ross, master, 85 tons, cleared May 20.

8. Ship *Grace*, James Lawson, master 200 tons, cleared June 13.

9. The three tobacco ships from London were:

Baltimore, Charles Stewart, master, 95 tons, cleared June 14.

Sim, John Thomas Boucher, master, 130 tons, cleared June 1.

Nancy, James Buchanan, master, 160 tons, cleared June 16.

10. Ship *Nancy*, James Burrow, master, 130 tons, entered May 10, from Milford.
11. Brig *Dutchess of Leinster*, Alexander Cathrew, master, 100 tons, entered May 13 from Dublin.
12. Not listed in Port of Entry Book, 1745–1775, MdHS.
13. Snow *Jenny*, William McNeilly, master, 60 tons, entered May 10 from Cork.
14. Ship *Jenny and Polly*, Daniel Lawrence, master, 100 tons, entered May 13 from Bristol.
15. Brig *Maryland Planter*, Thomas Nicholson, master, 120 tons, cleared May 18 for London.
16. Ship *Baltimore Packet*, Alexander Kennedy, master, 100 tons, cleared May 8.
17. Brig *Joseph*, Joseph Thompson, master, 100 tons, entered April 28, from Poole.
18. Brig *James*, John Smith, master, 50 tons, cleared May 8.

DIARY OF THE SALEM MORAVIAN CONGREGATION OF NORTH CAROLINA ¹

May 17 [1775]. This afternoon Dr. Richter brought from Bethabara a package of letters, Gemein Nachrichten and newspapers, from Bethlehem and Lititz, which Christian Conrad brought on his return from Pennsylvania. The letters were of April 25th and May 1st, and among other things mentioned the unpleasant fact that about April 19th there had been a skirmish near Boston between the royal troops and the Provincial Militia. The most recent newspapers report that the Congress held in Philadelphia has been declared a Rebellion by Parliament, although Congress vehemently declared its loyalty to the King.

1. Fries, ed., *Moravians in North Carolina*, II, 873.

18 May

COLONEL ETHAN ALLEN TO THE MERCHANTS OF MONTREAL ¹

Gentlemen,

St. Johns, May 18, 1775

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that Lakes George and Champlain, with the fortresses, artillery, &c., particularly the armed sloop of George the Third, with all water carriages of these Lakes, are now in possession of the Colonies. I expect the English Merchants, as well as all virtuous disposed gentlemen, will be in the interest of the Colonies. The advanced guard of the Army is now at St. John's, and desire immediately to have a personal intercourse with you. Your immediate assistance as to provisions, ammunition, and spirituous liquors, is wanted and forthwith expected, not as a donation, for I am empowered by the Colonies to purchase the same; and I desire you would forthwith and without further notice, prepare for the use of the Army those articles to the amount of five hundred Pounds, and deliver the same to me at St. John's, or at least a part of it almost instantaneously, as the soldiers press on faster than provisions. I need not inform you that my directions from the Colonies are not to contend with or in any way injure or molest the Canadians or Indians; but, on the other hand, treat them with the greatest friendship and kindness. You will be pleased to communicate the same to them, and some of you immediately visit me at his place, while others are active in delivering the provisions.

I write in haste, and am, gentlemen, [&c.]

Ethan Allen

To Mr. James Morrison and the Merchants that are friendly to the cause of liberty in Montreal

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 639.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE ¹

[Exeter] Thursday May 18th A.M. [1775]

A letter being recd from Hunking Wentworth Esqr Chairman of a Committee at Portsmouth the same was read & ordered to Lay.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 471.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1775

Cambridge, May 18.

Yesterday Colonel [James] Easton arrived at the Provincial Congress in Watertown from Ticonderoga, & brings the glorious News of the taking that Place by the American forces, without the loss of a man; Of which interesting Event we have collected the following Particulars, viz.

Last Tuesday se'nnight [May 9], about 240 Men, from Connecticut and this Province, under Col. [Ethan] Allen and Colonel Easton, arrived at the Lake near Ticonderoga, 80 of them crossed it, and came to the Fort about the Dawn of day. The Sentry was much surprised at seeing such a Body of Men, & snapped his Piece at them; our Men, however rushed forward, seized and confined the Sentry, pushed through the covered Way, and all got safe upon the Parade, while the Garrison were sleeping in their Beds. They immediately formed a hollow Square, and gave three Huzzas, which bro't out the Garrison; and an inconsiderable Skirmish, with Cutlasses or Bayonets, ensued, in which a small Number of the Enemy received some Wounds. The commanding Officer soon came forth; Col. Easton clapped him upon the Shoulder, told him he was his Prisoner, and demanded, IN THE NAME OF AMERICA, an instant Surrender of the Fort, with all its Contents, to the American Forces. The Officer was in great Confusion, and expressed himself to this Effect: Damn you, what . . . what . . . does all this mean? . . . Col. Easton again told him, that he and his Garrison were Prisoners: The Officer said, that he hoped he should be treated with honour. Colonel Easton replied, he should be treated with much more Honour that our people had met with from the British Troops. The officer then said, he was all Submission, and immediately ordered his Soldiers to deliver up all the Arms, in Number about 100 Stands. As they gave up their Arms, the Prisoners were secured in the hollow square. . . .

The American Forces having thus providentially got Possession of this important Fortress, found in it upwards of One Hundred Pieces of Cannon, several Mortars, and a considerable Quantity of shot, Stores, and some Powder.

After this Acquisition, a Detachment of our Troops was despatched to take Possession of Crown-Point, where there is a considerable Number of Cannon. Another Detachment was sent to Skenesborough, where they took Major [Philip] Skene and his Family, with a Number of Soldiers, & several small Pieces of Cannon.

WILLIAM THOMPSON TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

Sir

Watertown Thursday May 18 1775

I have now to inform you, that having communicated the proposed Adventure P your Vessell to the proper Persons, they have authorized me to advise

you that they will be concerned therein, for which Purpose I shall return to your Place, where I expect to be by Thursday next or sooner if possible, therefore desire you will keep her till that Time.²

I am [&c.]

W^m Thompson

please to change the Guineas I left into Jos³

1. Shaw Collection, Packet No. 3, YUL.

2. Schooner *Macaroni*, William Packwood, master. See Thompson to Shaw, May 12, 1775.

3. Johannes, a Portuguese gold coin, worth then about nine dollars.

PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS TO COLONEL SAMUEL THOMPSON¹

In Provincial Congress Watertown May 18 1775

Ordered, That Colonel [Samuel] Thompson have the following Letter sent him

Sir: This Congress have Received Information that the Committee of Correspondence of the Town of Falmouth, on hearing that you were about making an attack on the *Canceaux*, Man of War, Lying in the harbour of that Town, desired you to forbear any proceedings of that kind; which you promised to do; but that you afterwards took the Captain of said Ship of War, and detained the Hon. Jedediah Preble and Enoch Freman Esqrs, as Hostages for the return of the said Captain: And that you Levied contributions of money and other things from the subjects there, And took a Boat belonging to the said *Canceaux*.

Though this Congress approves of your general zeal for this Country, yet it appears, that your Conduct in taking the Captain of the Ship, against your promise, and your Levying money or other things of the People, is, by no means, justifiable: and it is therefore Expected that you attend the next Congress that shall be held in this Colony, and do your character justice in this matter, and that you return said Boat, and stay all further proceedings of this kind in the mean time.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 209.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

Thursday, May 18, 1775 Afternoon.

Ordered, That Mr. Sullivan, Colonel Foster, Doctor Holten, Mr. Bragdon, and Captain Batchelder, be a Committee to take into consideration a Letter from the Committee of Correspondence for the Town of Falmouth, and such parts of a Letter from the Honourable Enoc Freeman, Esq. to the Secretary, as he may communicate.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 809, 810, from Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir

Preston Boston May 18th 1775

By Accounts from the best Authorities to the Southward I find that the Rebellion begun in the province of Massachusetts Bay hath spread itself to the Colonies of New York, Pensilvania and Virginia: there is too much reason to apprehend the Infection is general, since even Nova Scotia has shewn Symptoms in

burning a Quantity of Hay collected for the use of the Kings Troops. I therefore beg leave to submit to their Lordships Consideration how extremely useful a few of the old Fifty Gun Ships would be to serve in the Rivers on this Continent; they are handy Ships, and from their easy Draught of Water can go in and out of Harbours without that great Risque and Delay which constantly attends the piloting those now with me. And as the principal part of the Duty here is done by Boats I shall be extremely obliged to their Lordships if they will be pleased to give directions that each Ship and Sloop coming out in future may have an additional Boat for her own Use, and that Supply be also sent to the Ships now in America. I believe I need not add that none can be built or repaired now but at Halifax; Every Days Experience shews that we can hope for no Supplies the Rebels can prevent: their Vigilance extends even to Firewood, which is expressly forbidden to be sold; And I am this moment informed Guards are placed along the Coast for that purpose.

The Squadron is upwards of sixty Marines short of Complement; they are so useful a Body at all times, and at this Juncture it is so requisite to keep each Ships Complement compleat, that I cannot avoid entreating their Lordships to allow any Ships coming from England to bring out supernumerary Marines for that purpose. I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 90-92, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO WILLIAM TYNG ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 18th May 1775

I shall be obliged to you to make it as publickly known as possible that all Vessels with Provisions of any Kind, Lumber, Spars, Firewood &c for Fleet or Army, may come directly to Boston without touching at Salem, and that as soon as they have disposed of their Cargoes they shall all be allowed to return without any Molestation or their Seamen being prest.

I am &c

Sam^l Graves

Wm. Tyng Esqr., High Sheriff of the County of Cumberland, Province of Massachusetts Bay

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 418, 419, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston 18 May 1775

His Excellency Lord Dunmore has pressed me to send a large Ship to Virginia for the preservation of the Lives and properties of the King's faithful Subjects of that Colony Now in the greatest danger from the violent proceedings of the People which evidently tend to a Rebellion. I beg your Excellency will be pleased to acquaint me whether you think, in the present situation of things here, that the *Boyne* can be spared, as I am desirous in that Case of sending her immediately to Virginia. I have the Honor to be with great regard Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

18th. [May, 1775]

Coll. Abercrombie Adj. Genl., lately arrived from England, going up Cambridge river this morning in a Man of War's Boat was fired upon by several of the Rebels from the Banks; several balls went thro' the boat but nobody was hurt; they made the best of their way back, and I don't hear that he has been as fond of reconnoitring since.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 48.JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTYS SLOOP *Nautilus*, JOHN COLLINS, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

Cape Codd S E B E, 4 or 5 Leagues

Thursday 18 at ½ past 10 [A M] fired 2 shot to bring too a Schooner; at ½ past 11 spoke her, from Martinic to Beverly with Molasses, Sugar, Coffee, Cotton and Cocoa . . . P M sent the Lieutenant and 5 Men to carry the Schooner to Boston.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/629.

ZEBINA MONTAGUE TO JOHN MONTAGUE, SUNDERLAND, MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Extract]

Hatfield [Mass.] 18th May 1775

The battle at Lexington unhappily desolv'd our Correspondence by Letter but Considering that our men Come of[f] Victorious in that Skirmish – it may not be amiss to begin our Periodical Speculations upon the Scenes which are passing at this day . . . my mind much Confused with Reflections upon the unhappy state we are in who as an Individual must Suffer Equal to what small crum I have as those who have Great Possessions. my life is dear but however so I will Risque it in Opposition to the Measures of administration against this Insulted People – Last Night in the Evening I had Intelligence that Orders was come over for the Troops to Destroy Plunder & burn as much as was possible they Could This is the Language of a British Parliament! May God in his Infinite Mercy Prevent their Rage from succeeding & may the Net they have spread for the Innocent Take their feet & the Councils of those men who are seeking the destruction of this People be Carried headlong. – I am Informd that L—d Norths Fishery Bill as equally mercifull as his others has passd the two Houses of Parliament which will be very distressing to many of our New England men – & Especially the Island of Nantucket who must Innevitably Perish without moving off for when at Newport often was Informd that their whole dependance for the Necessarys of Life was the Effects of their fishery – there is not any favour to be Expected from that Parliament who have avowed the Desolution of a People who are as Loyal Subjects as any in Great Britain – I am Informd that Mr Parsons of Amherst came in to Hadley to buy some shad but Could not Get any at all because he was a Tory Neither Could he get any at Northampton I believe if Lord N——h should hear of it he would be for a Bill to Restrain the fishery in Connecticutt River or to put a stop to the Shads Coming up the River which would Effect us who are short on for meat. . . .

1. MHA.

JOHN LAWRENCE, TREASURER OF CONNECTICUT, TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

Sir

Hartford 18 May 1775.

I received yours of the 17th Inst wherein you inform that you are preparing for the Intended Voyage – wish you good Success – it is probable I can Send you the money by Mr [Richard] Law, when he goes home which will be better than for you to come here, as it may give Occasion for People to Conjecture Something, that they Know nothing about, I am [&c.]

John Lawrence

1. Shaw Transcripts, LC.

JOURNAL KEPT BY ELEAZER OSWALD ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN¹

Thursday [May 18, 1775]. After rowing hard all night we arrived within half a mile of the place at sun rise, sent a man to bring us information, and in a small creek, infested with numberless swarms of gnats and muskitoes, waited with impatience for his return.

The man returning, informed us they were unapprized of our coming, though they had heard of the taking of Ticonderoga and Crown point. We directly pushed for shore, and landed at about sixty rods distance from the barracks; the men had their arms, but upon our briskly marching up in their faces, they retired within the barracks, left their arms, and resigned themselves into our hands.

We took fourteen prisoners, fourteen stands of arms, and some small stores. We also took the King's sloop, two fine brass field pieces, and four boats. We destroyed five boats more lest they should be made use of against us. Just at the completion of our business, a fine gale arose from the north! we directly hoisted sail and returned in triumph. About six miles from St. John's, we met Colonel [Ethan] Allen with four boats and ninety men, who determined to proceed and maintain the ground. This scheme Col. [Benedict] Arnold thought impracticable, as Montreal was near, with plenty of men and every necessary for war: Nevertheless Col. Allen proceeded and encamped on the opposite side of the lake (or river as it is there called) the next morning he was attacked by two hundred regulars, and obliged to decamp and retreat.

1. "Oswald's Journal."

RIVINGTON'S *New York Gazetteer*, THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1775

New York, May 18.

Capt. Edward Mott and Capt. Noah Phelps, set out from Hartford, on Saturday, the 29 of April, in order to take possession of the fortress of Ticonderoga, and the dependencies thereunto belonging; they took with them from Connecticut 16 men unarmed, and marched privately through the country till they came to Pittsfield, without discovering their design to any person, till they fell in company with Col. [Ethan] Allen, Col. [James] Easton, and John Brown, Esq; who engaged to join themselves to said Mott and Phelps, and to raise men sufficient to take the place by surprize, if possible. Accordingly the men were raised, and proceeded as directed by said Mott and Phelps, Col. Ethan Allen commanding the soldiery, on Tuesday they surprized and took the fortress, making prisoners

the Commandant and his party. On Wednesday morning they possessed themselves of Crown-Point, taking possession of the ordnance stores, consisting of upwards of 200 pieces of cannon, 3 mortars, sundry howitzers, and 50 swivels, &c.

Ethan Allen, fearful of an attempt from Governor [Guy] Carleton to retake the place, has written to the Committee of Albany for a supply of 500 men and provisions; the Committee, however not perceiving themselves competent to determine on a matter of so much importance, requested the advice of our general Committee, who referred them, and immediately dispatched an express, to the [Continental] Congress now sitting at Philadelphia.

New York Journal, THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1775

New York, May 18.

The late Seizure of the Powder at the Magazine at Williamsburgh, has incensed the Inhabitants of that Province to such a degree against his Excellency Lord Dunmore, their Governor, that the *Virginia Gazette*, or *Norfolk Intelligencer*, of the 4th Instant, says, "His Excellency, the Governor, we hear, with his Family have retired on board his Majesty's Ship the *Fowey*, now lying at York, in Consequence of the Disturbances occasioned by the Removal of the Powder from the public Magazine at Williamsburg."

We hear from Williamsburg, the locks were taken off from the magazine, — that the *Magdalen* Schooner is in York river, under the protection of the *Fowey* man of war, — that Lord Dunmore had fortified himself in the palace, and his Lady and family gone on board the *Fowey* for safety.

We hear that Capt. [Charles] Murray in a Sloop from the Coast of Africa, was brought to, yesterday, in our Harbour, by Capt. [James] Montague of the *King-Fisher* Sloop of War, who ROBBED him of 6 Swivels, a number of Cohorns, and 120 lb. of Gun Powder, &c. [Quere, *Is not this invading private property?*]¹

1. The printer's query in italics.

COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF
CONNECTICUT¹

Sir

New York 18th May 1775

As we have great reason to expect the arrival of troops from Britain to be quartered in this Province, we thought it a necessary piece of precaution to ask of the Continental Congress a line of conduct for our inhabitants on that event. We have received their directions on that head as appears by the inclosed² — We have also been informed that our brethern of Connecticut, attentive to the common cause and kindly tendering the safety of this City in its present defenceless state are upon the point of marching a considerable body of troops into it with intent to assist us in securing it against any attempt to reduce it to the condition of a garrison town or place of arms We have on this head to request your honour should these troops be about to march, to direct their encampment on the western frontiers of your Colony if your honour should think it expedient they should proceed so far, until some plan can be properly settled with our Provincial Congress who are to meet the 22nd Instant so as to place their introduction if

necessary on such a basis as will produce perfect concord & unanimity & most effectually answer the valuable ends of so friendly a succor –

We are with great respect [&c.] (By order of the Committee of New York)

1. Trumbull Papers, IV, Force Transcript, LC.

2. See Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 48–53.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, May 18, 1775

The president laid before the Congress, some important intelligence he received last night, by express from New York, relative to the surprising and taking of Ticonderoga, by a detachment from Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut which was read . . .

Upon motion, *Agreed*, That Mr. [John] Brown, who brought the express, be called in to give an account of the disposition of the Canadians,² the taking of Ticonderoga and the importance of that post. Whereupon he was called in – and having given the necessary information he withdrew. The Congress taking the matter into consideration came to the following Resolution,

Resolved, Whereas there is indubitable evidence that a design is formed by the British Ministry of making a cruel invasion from the province of Quebec, upon these colonies, for the purpose of destroying our lives and liberties, and some steps have actually been taken to carry the said design into execution. And whereas several inhabitants of the northern colonies, residing in the vicinity of Ticonderoga, and immediately exposed to incursions, impelled by a just regard for the defence and preservation of themselves and their countrymen from such imminent dangers and calamities have taken possession of that post, in which was lodged a quantity of cannon and military stores, that would certainly have been used in the intended invasion of these colonies, this Congress earnestly recommend it to the committees of the cities and counties of New York and Albany, immediately to cause the said cannon and military stores to be removed from Ticonderoga to the south end of Lake George; and if necessary to apply to the colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusetts bay, and Connecticut, for such an additional body of forces as will be sufficient to establish a strong post at that place and effectually to secure the said cannon and stores or so many of them as it may be judged proper to keep there. – And that an exact inventory be taken of all such cannon and stores in order that they may be safely returned when the restoration of the former harmony between Great Britain and these colonies so ardently wished for by the latter shall render it prudent and consistent with the overruling law of self preservation.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 55, 56.

2. See John Brown to Massachusetts Committee of Correspondence, March 29, 1775.

THOMAS JOHNSON, JR., A MARYLAND DELEGATE IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, TO SAMUEL PURVIANCE ¹

Dear Sir

Phila 18 May 1775

Mr [Patrick] Henry did me the favor Yesterday to deliver me your Letter we have as yet had nothing agitated in Congress about Trade I hope and expect that the Time for Exportation will continue as it did though I have some Expectation that it will be moved to shorten it As the Event of any Motion of that Sort

ought & I suppose will be allowed to be made public you shall have early Notice – Ticonderago has been surprized by a small party of New England men & is now in their possession without drawing one drop of Blood – from what I can collect in the Concord Affair upwards of 400 Regulars killed wounded & taken prisoners, it is strange but I believe only 43 Militia killed & a very small number wounded – N York & Pensylva I know in Confidence are firm though some Gentlemens prejudices prompt them to suspect N York Our friends in that Government have had a hard Winters Campaign and remarkable Success I think every Thing promises very fair if we do not ever divide – As there can be no Occasion for a Convention of our Province before, you will not see me till the Congress breaks up. I shall attend to your Hints let me entreat you to spirit our people to Diligence in Exercise and as you have an Oppty if in your Power of planning & mounting a Scheme for a speedy Supply of Powder pray think of it from what I learn it may be had out of the powder Stores at the Cape ² I am sorry to tell you this place N York Jersey & Lower Counties are very illy supplied and none of our Friends very amply – do get together and try if you cannot do something.

I am dr. sr. [&c.]

Th^s Johnson Jun^r

1. Misc. Collection, HUL.

2. Cape François.

JOHN FOSTER TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

Sir

Southampton [Virginia] May 18th 1775

I now send you by the Bearer Mr Samuel Hunting a some of Money which he has signd a Receipt here for; to your Adress to purchase Powder please to give him a Receipt that he may Send it back Sir there is Eight half Johaniss which are light if you Purchase in St Eustatia they will pass for 8 Dollars & save me the Loss here & if not your Capt must Change them to Oblige me & save me the Loss here Mr Hunting will let you know which they are Mr Hunting is a Gentleman of a Liberal Education, he has been 2 Voyages Master of a Vessel in my Employ I look upon him to be a Man of Principal & to be Depended upon. he is well Acquainted with our Shoar & in Case you Can once Command the Shoar there is no manner of Danger there is 10 Boats will be on our Beach till you arive & Can Unlaid You in an Hour But you will know the danger if any by Boats going of[f] to him by his Signal which I send you & must be Strictly adheard to if you get Soundings off the Capes of Virginia you can strike the Island where you please If it cant be Safe to come Round with the Vessel Mr Hunting must carry her on to Nicolls Gut & there She will be Safe in Case this Island is not Filled with Troops before he Arives & if that Should be the Case they must be dislodged by the United Forces of the whole Country But I hope that will not be the Case the Some of Money that Mr Hunting has Given Receipt for is one Hundred Sixty Five Pounds fourteen Shillings & Nine pence ²

These from your Sincere Friend [&c.]

John Foster

P S Mr Hunting is not a Pilot into Nicolls Gut but he can inform you into the Nature of it and can get one

1. Shaw Collection, Packet No. 3, YUL.

2. A list of the money is attached to the letter.

19 May

“REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER”¹

Friday 19th Fired a 9 Pounder shotted at a Brigg from Barbadoes. Impressed
May 1775 two Men from her. —

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

(Copy)

Scarborough Piscataqua May 19th 1775

Sir I wrote to You by a Schooner belonging to General [Thomas] Gage the 3d
Inst nothing material has happened here since.

Yesterday Governor [John] Wentworth send me a Message by his Secretary acquainting me there was about three hundred Men had assembled, to carry away a Quantity of Masts, that were in a Pond near the Town, I ask'd the Secretary if the Governor desired that I might send my Boats to prevent their so doing, he said no, by no means, for if such a thing was attempted they would immediately cut them to pieces, I ask'd what they intended to do with them, he replied they were going to carry them higher up the River for their better Security, I ask'd him where could they be so well secured or safe as under the Protection of a King's Ship and told him if Governor Wentworth, or whoever was the Proprietor of these Masts would apply to me, it was in my power to have protected them as they were made up in Floats to be carried up the River, he said he had no such request to make, about an hour after he was gone I received a Letter from Governor Wentworth, a Copy of which I herewith inclose You by which You may see, they intend they never shall be made use of for the King or his Service.

Yesterday Morning the *Canceaux* arrived here from Falmouth, has brought with him Captain [Thomas] Colstan's Ship and Sloop which I have taken under my protection and shall gave him every Assistance in my power to fit his Ship. I find the Arrival of Captain Colsten's Ship was the cause of their Manoeuvre with Mast, thinking she was come to take them in; I have just now been inform'd that the People of Halifax in Nova Scotia had assembled and destroyed a Magazine of Hay which was collected there for the use of his Majesty's Troops and that they had attempted to destroy the King's Yard but were prevented by some part of the Inhabitants, In consequence of which I gave Lieutenant [Henry] Mowat Orders to proceed to Halifax without one moment's loss of time and at his Arrival if he found no King's Ship there to do his utmost Endeavours to protect the King's Yard and Stores and to put your Orders in Execution as soon as he could —

I send this by a Vessel belonging to the Commrs of the Customs

Sign'd And^w Barkley

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

New Hampshire Gazette, FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1775

Portsmouth, May 19.

Last Tuesday Evening [May 16] a Barge belonging to the Man of War in this Harbour, rowing up and down the River, to make Discoveries, with two small

officers and six Seamen; the Tars not liking the Employ, tied their commanders, then run the Boat ashore, and were so unpolite as to wish the Prisoners good Night, and come off. The Officers soon got loose and rowed themselves back to the ship.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Friday, May 19, 1775

A Letter from the Committee of Correspondence of Connecticut, was read, respecting the taking of Ticonderoga; Whereupon,

Ordered, That Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry prepare an answer thereto, informing them what steps this Congress have taken relative to that affair.

Mr. Gerry reported an Answer to a Letter from the Committee of Correspondence of Connecticut, which was accepted.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N.¹

Sir,

Preston Boston May 19th 1775

I have received your Letter May 15th with its Inclosures; Your Hint respecting the different operations on our parts and that of the Rebels is perfectly understood, I heartily wish we were empowered to act.

It is highly expedient to prevent all Supplies going to Providence. In my last Dispatches you were authorized to seize Provisions and send them to Boston; Arms and Ammunition were before prohibited: I cannot at present give you a further Scope, though equally desirous of chastizing the Rebels. I thank you for the Intelligence from [New] York; notwithstanding all Discouragements, you must not remit your usual Diligence in procuring and sending to me what Information you can of the Rebels. I am &c.

Sam^l Graves

Rose at Rhode Island

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 419, 420, MassHS Transcript.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] May 19th [1775], Lieutenant Parry, Agent of Transports, in the *James and William*, together with the *Francis, Grand Dutchess of Russia, Betsey, Two Brothers* and *Union Transports* arrived about this time from Portsmouth [England] with Marines; And this was the only division of Transports whose Agent had Directions to follow the Admirals Orders.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 94, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 19th May 1775.

As I find the Rebels have seized and carried off into their Ports several Vessels laden with Fuel, Lumber and Provisions coming to Boston, and being in-

formed that they have retaken two Vessels seized by the *Falcon* and made the men prisoners, I beg leave to submit to their Lordships that a Sergeant, Corporal and the Private Marines, in addition to the present Establishment of the armed Schooners on this Station, would make these Vessels very formidable, and enable them to do very considerable Service during the Rebellion: The Marines would also be an excellent Guard to prevent the Seamen from deserting.

I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 92, MassHS Transcript.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir,

Boston May 19th 1775.

I have received your Letter of Yesterday. which I have considered, It is impossible for me in the present State of Things here, to say whether you may be able to spare the *Boyne* to be sent to Virginia; You are the best Judge of the use that can be made of the great Ships here or in that Country.

Some Disagreeable Accounts have been received that Lord Dunmore is taken Prisoner, and carried into the back Country; if that is a Fact, it is difficult to know if there is any Person to take direction of any Assistance that can be sent to that Province.

I would observe to you that I have Accounts again this Morning, of a Number of large flat Boats building at Cambridge. –

I am with great Regard and Esteem Sir &ca

1. Gage Papers, CL.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 19th. [May, 1775]

Several shots fired at the *Glasgow*; it's what the fools frequently do, but without any harm, from the great distance.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 48.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY,
CAMBRIDGE ¹

Gentlemen

Crown Point, 19th May 1775 –

My last was of the 14th Instant by Mr [Bernard] Romans, via New Haven. I then acquainted you of the Occasion of Delay in not carrying your Orders into execution. – The Afternoon of the same Day, being joined by Captains Brown & Oswald, with 50 Men inlisted on the Road, they having taken Possession of a small Schooner, at Skenesborough, we immediately proceeded on our Way for St Johns, and at 8 o'Clock, P.M; the 17th Instant arrived within 30 Miles of St Johns. The Weather proving calm, we mannd out two small Batteaux, with 35 Men, & the next Morning at 6 o'Clock, arrived at St Johns, surprized & took a Sargeant & his Party of 12 Men, the King's Sloop of about 70 Tons, with 2 brass

Map of Lake Champlain, 1776.

6-pounders & 7 Men, without any Loss on either Side. – The Captain was gone to Montreal, & hourly expected with a large Detachment for Ticonderoga, a Number of Guns & Carriages for the Sloop, which was just fixed for sailing; add to this there was a Captain & 40 Men at Chamblee, 12 Miles distant from St Johns, who was expected there every Minute with his Party; so that it seemed to be a mere Interposition of Providence that we arrived in so fortunate an Hour. – We took such Stores on board as were valuable, & the Wind proving favourable, in two Hours after our arrival, weighed Anchor for this place, with the Sloop & 4 of the kings Batteaux, having destroy'd 5 others; so that there is not left a single Batteau for the kings Troops, Canadians or Indians, to cross the Lake in if they have any such Intention. – I must, in Justice to Col. [Ethan] Allen, observe, that he left Crown Point soon after me for St Johns with 150 Men & on my Return I met him 5 Leagues this Side, & supplied him with Provisions, his Men being in a starving Condition. – He informed me of his Intention of proceeding on to St John's with 80 or 100 Men, & keeping Possession there. – It appeared to me a wild, impracticable Scheme, & provided it could be carried into execution, of no Consequence, so long as we are Masters of the Lake, & of that I make no Doubt, as I am determined to arm the Sloop & Schooner immediately. – I wrote you, Gentlemen, in my former Letter, that I should be extremely glad to be superceded in my Command here, as I find it next to impossible to repair the old Fort at Ticonderoga, & am not qualified to direct in building a new one. –

I am really of Opinion, it will be necessary to employ 1000 or 1500 Men here this Summer, in which I have the Pleasure of being joined in Sentiment by Mr Romans, who is esteem'd an able Engineer. – I am making all possible Provisions for wheel Carriages &c to carry such Cannon &c to Albany, as can be spared here & will be servicable to our Army at Cambridge –

I must refer you for Particulars to the Bearer, Capt Jonathan Brown, who has been very active & servicable, & is a prudent & good Officer, and beg leave to observe, I have had Intimations given me, that some Persons had determined to apply to you & the Provincial Congress, to injure me in your esteem by misrepresenting Matters of Fact. – I know of no other Motive they can have, only my refusing them Commissions, from the very simple Reason, that I did not think them qualified: – however, Gentlemen, I have the Satisfaction of imagining I am employ'd by Gentlemen of so much Candour that my Conduct will not be condemned untill I have the Opportunity of being heard –

I am [&c.]

Benedict Arnold

P.S. Inclosed is a Memorandum of such Cannon &c as I intend sending to Cambridge Also of such as are here. –

By a Return from Montreal to Genl [Thomas] Gage, I find there are 717 Men in Canada, of the 7th & 26th Regiments, including 70, which we have taken Prisoners.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 210, 211.

A List of Cannon &c., taken at Crown Point ¹

2 iron 24-pounders,	33 6 and 9-pounders, useless,
1 do. do. useless	7 9 and 12 do. do.
1 brass do. serviceable	2 long 6 do. good,
4 iron 18-pounders, not examined but appear good	2 short 6 do. bad,
14 iron 12 pounders, do	3 do. do. not examined
4 French do. useless	3 do. do. useless
8 12 and 18 do. not examined but appear good	1 English 13-inch mortar,
7 long 9-pounders, double fortified, good	1 French do. } all
12 long 9-pounders, serviceable	2 do 8-inch do. } serviceable
2 do. do. mounted	2 8-inch howitzers
	111

A List of Cannon &c., taken at Ticonderoga

3 18-pounders, good,	19 swivels, good,
2 French do. bad,	2 wall pieces, good,
2 12-pounders, good,	2 French 12-pounders, bad,
6 12 do. double fortified,	1 13-inch mortar and bed, good,
good,	1 7 do. do. good,
2 12 do. useless,	1 7-inch howitzers, good
12 9 do. good,	—
5 9 do. bad,	86
18 6 do. bad,	28 iron truck wheels,
9 4 do. good,	10 carriages fit for use
1 6 do. good,	

N.B. I shall send to Cambridge the 24-pounders, 12 and 6-pounders, howitzers, &c., as directed by Colonel [Richard] Gridley. Four brass howitzers in the edge of the Lake, and covered with water, cannot be come at at present.

Benedict Arnold

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 210. Enclosed in Arnold's letter of May 19, 1775.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CROWN POINT, MAY 19" ¹

On the 14th inst. Col. [Benedict] Arnold left Ticonderoga with 50 men, in a small schooner (seized at Skenesbury) ² and proceeded for St. John's. The 17th, at six o'clock P.M. being within 30 miles of St. John's, the weather calm, they manned 2 small batteaus with 35 men, and at six o'clock next morning arrived there and surprized a serjeant and his party of 12 men, and took the King's sloop of about 70 tons,³ two brass six pounders and 7 men, without any loss on either side. The Captain was hourly expected from Montreal, with a large detachment of men, some guns and carriages for the sloop; as was a Captain with 40 men from Chamblee, which is twelve miles distant from St. John's; so that providence seems to have smiled on us in arriving at so fortunate an hour; for, had we been six hours later, in all probability we should have miscarried in our design. — The wind proving favourable in two hours after our arrival, we got on board all the stores, provisions, &c. and weighed anchor for this place, with the sloop and five large batteaus, which we seized, having destroyed five others, and arrived here at ten this morning, not leaving one craft of any kind behind that that enemy can cross the lake in, if they have any such intention.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, June 5, 1775.

2. Named the *Liberty*.

3. Subsequently named the *Enterprise*.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, May 19, 1775

The committee appointed to consider what posts are necessary to be occupied in the colony of New York, and by what number of troops it will be proper they should be guarded, brot in their report, which being read was referred to the committee of the whole.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 57.

MANIFEST OF CARGO OF FLOUR SHIPPED IN SCHOONER *Lively* ¹

SHIPPED in good Order and well conditioned, by *Stephen Collins* in and upon the good *schooner* called the *Lively* whereof is Master for this present Voyage *Holton Johnson* and now riding at Anchor in the River *Delaware*, and bound for *London* To say

One Hundred Barrells of Flour. —

Thirty Barrells of which is Light. —

being marked and numbered as in the Margin,² and are to be delivered in like good Order and well conditioned at the aforesaid Port of *London* (the Danger of the Seas only excepted) unto *William Neate Merchant* there or to his Assigns, he or they paying Freight for the said Goods; *Five Shillings and Sixpence sterling pr Barrell for the Heavy & Five Shillings pr Barrell for the Light.* with Primage and Average accustomed. *In Witness whereof* the Master or Purser of the said *Schooner* hath affirmed to *two* Bills of Lading, all of this Tenor and Date; the one of which being accomplished, the other *to* stand void. Dated *Philadelphia, May 19th 1775* ³ *Holton Johnson*

1. Stephen Collins Accounts, vol. 12, LC.

2. Marginal identification, "A No. 1 to 100."

3. The insurance policy for the *Lively*, dated May 12, 1775, is to be found in the Stephen Collins Accounts, vol. 12, LC. It is a printed form. Handwritten insertions appear in italics. The subscribers to the insurance, each assuming an obligation for two hundred pounds, were Caleb Emlen, John Bringham, John Mifflin, Matthew Aspden, and Isaac Cox, all Philadelphians. According to the *Pennsylvania Packet*, the *Lively*, under the command of Holton Johnson, entered the port of Philadelphia from Salem prior to May 8. She was entered outwards immediately and cleared for London prior to May 15, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

May the 19th 1775. — Committee met.

Messrs Lux & Bowley at the Request of the Committee produced a Letter of Advice and Instructions from Messrs Pinney & Sibley of [Liver]Pool relative to the Loading of the Brig *Sukey* Capt Sl Clark —

The Chairman laid before the Committee Extracts from two Letters received from Philadelphia, informing that sundry Vessels were loading in the Port of Liverpool with Salt and dry Goods, some of which were destined for this Province. — Ordered that Copies of the said Extracts be printed in handbills and inclosed to the different Committees of this Province and Virginia—

1. Balt. Com., LC.

BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO THE COUNCIL OF SAFETY OF MARYLAND ¹

Gentlemen

Baltimore May 19th 1775

By several Letters of good authority Receivd from Phila by yesterday's Post, we are Advised that there is a Vessell daily expected theire with a Parcel of Salt [and] some Dry Goods from Liverpool for which the Pilots of Dellaware are ordered to keep a sharp lookout. – by the same Letters we are Informed one or more Ships were taking in Salt & Dry Goods at Liverpool intended for this Ba[y] in particular the Ship *Johnson* Bound with such a Cargoe to this Port, Its not Probable that the Parties Concern'd will attempt to Bring such Goods directly in Heare, but Rather Disload them in Small Craft Down the Bay. We Hope you will order a Diligent attention [to] be kept up in Examining all Boats and Small Craft & use your Best Endeavours to Counteract the Selfish Schemes of Every Enemy to American Liberty we are with great Respect Gentlemen [&c.] In Behalf of the Committee

Samuel Purviance Chairman

I am not certain whether you have been informd. that our Committee have agreed to your Requisition for 500 wt of Gun Powder – It is & you may have it as Soon as you please to send for it.

S. P.

1. US Naval Papers, MdHS.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1775

Williamsburg, May 19.

On Monday last [May 15] Capt. [George] Montague's detachment of marines (nicknamed *boiled crabs*) took their departure from this city, and are returned on board the *Fowey* – *to get fat*.

REAR ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir/

Antelope, Jamaica May 19th 1775

I beg leave to acquaint you, that I have received your Letters of the 31st Janry & 1st Febry last, in Answer to those of mine of the 22nd Novr & 9th Decr, 1774, and am glad I have the Honor to meet with their Lordships approbation, in regard to my Duty.

I beg leave to acquaint their Lordships, that by the last Pensacola Pacquet, I received a Letter from Captain Rodney, of His Majesty's sloop *Ferret*, informing me, that if he had a Deputation from the Customs, it would enable him, to carry on the service, in puting a stop to the Illicit Trade, carried on in the Mississippi, better than he is able to do without it, and that he had agreeable to my directions, applied to the Collector, at Pensacola, for one, but could not get One. Since that I have applied to the Collector, at Kingston, who informs me, 'tis not in his Power, to grant One, therefore it rests with their Lordships, whether the Captains, who are sent on that service, are to be furnish'd with Deputations, or not.

I further beg leave to inform their Lordships, that the 1st inst Jno McKenzie, deliver'd himself up to me, as a Deserter, from the Plymouth Division of Marines,

Sir,

Antelope, St. Lucia
May 19: 1775

I have the honor to receive

P. 12th I beg leave to acquaint
their Lordships, that by the last Pen-
sacola Packet, I received a Letter
from Captain Rodney, of His Majesty's
Sloop *Turret*, informing me, that if
he had a Deputation from the
Customs, it would enable him, to
carry on the Service, in putting a Stop
to the illicit Trade, carried on in the
Mississippi, & that he is able
to do without it, and that he had

met with their Lordships Approbation
I am, with great respect

Sir,

Your most Obedient
Humble servant

Clark Gayton

Philip Stephens Esq:.

he is at present in Confinement on board the *Antelope*, & that I propose sending him to England, in the *Pallas*.

I likewise beg leave to acquaint their Lordships, that the 10th instant, I appointed Wm Dobbs Cook of the *Maidstone* in the Room of the former Deceased.

Mr Holman, the New storekeeper is arrived, & has made Application to me, for Assistance in taking the General survey, of his Majestys stores here, in order to be deliver'd into his Charge, which Assistance I shall grant, as soon as ever in my Power.

With regard to the Disposition of His Majestys Ships and Vessells, under my Command, beg leave to acquaint their Lordships that since my last, the *Squirrel* arrived, & that she, & the *Maidstone*, are both fit for the sea, – I received information by the Pacquet, that Admiral [William] Parrys Squadron, were Cruizing between the Islands of St Martins, & St Eustatia, in order to intercept the American Vessells who were carrying on a Contraband Trade, and that they had taken two, or three of them. I therefore, as I thought it probable the next Pacquet, would bring me Orders to the same effect, with regard to the American Vessels, trading to Cape Nichola Mole, & Francois, therefore have detained the *Squirrel*, & *Maidstone* until her arrival, when if I have no Orders concerning them, I shall send the former, to the Mosquitto Shore, & Bay of Honduras, & the latter on a Cruize, which I hope will meet with their Lordships Approbation.

I am with great respect Sir [&c.]

Clark Gayton

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

20 May

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[EXETER] SATURDAY MAY 20TH 1775 A M

Voted that the thanks of this Convention be given to the persons who took away and secured for the use of this Government a Quantity of Gunpowder from the Castle called William & Mary in this Province.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 478.

JOSEPH GERRISH AND EBENEZER SAWYER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Sir

Exeter May 20th 1775.

In Obedience to the Orders of the Congress we have Executed the Commission be trusted us & find the Gente disposed to concur in Every measure that shall Conduce to the publicke good. Inclosed Sr is their Resolve of Congress we Can add no more than giving you Acct of their Seizing a Number of Masts in Portsmouth, destin'd for the Navy their firmness Resolution & unanimity gives us great Pleasure & are Sir [&c.] ²

Joseph Gerrish
Ebenezer Sawyer

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 218.

2. Gerrish and Sawyer were sent to New Hampshire to sound out the New Hampshire Congress upon its sentiments regarding resistance to the Crown.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO LORD DUNMORE, WILLIAMSBURG ¹

My Lord,

Preston Boston 20th May 1775

I have had the Honour to receive your Lordship's Letter of the 1st of May and see with Concern the unwarrantable and lawless proceedings of the people of Virginia, and the Danger your Lordship is exposed to by endeavouring to support his Majesty's just Authority amongst an ungrateful and rebellious people.

The action of the 19th of April, of which I inclose your Lordship a printed Account, has hitherto had the worst consequences to the King's Authority in this and the neighbouring Provinces. In fact the Rebellion is general: The Proceedings of the Governments of Rhode Island and Connecticut and the Committees of New York, Pensilvania, Jerseys and Philadelphia leave no Room to doubt their being of the same Mind with the Rebels of this Province: They are actually making the most vigorous preparations for War.

The Town of Boston is shut up by the Rebel Troops, whose advanced Centinels are within a few paces of ours. There is no communication by Land. The Rebels prohibiting every thing from being brought into Boston under pain of Death. The Inhabitants with their Effects are leaving the Town by permission, and it is generally believed that when they are all out, the Rebels will attack the Town; The General tells me that flat bottomed boats are building for this purpose at Cambridge. A numerous and well appointed Army is assembled, which without the protection of the Kings Ships can utterly destroy this Town and the Troops pent up in it. Castle William is at this time actually guarded by the Men of War.

Under these Circumstances it gives me great pain that I am unable to comply fully with your Lordship's requisition to send a large Ship to Virginia, being perfectly satisfied how serviceable she could be at this Juncture; But my Lord I flatter myself when your Lordship is acquainted with the true situation of his Majesty's Affairs in this Town and Province, and of the great preparations actually making to dislodge the King's Troops; Your Lordship will perceive I could not without the utmost Risque send another large Ship from hence; The *Asia* being gone to New York the beginning of this month. I have however sent Captain [Matthew] Squire in his Majesty's Sloop *Otter* to put himself under the Command of Captain [George] Montagu, who will I am satisfied continue to assist your Lordship and protect his Majesty's faithful Subjects to the utmost of his Power, and when a Reinforcement comes from England, your Lordship may depend upon my paying the utmost Attention in my power to your application, consistent with the Orders I may receive, and the Exigencies of his Majesty's Service in this Country. I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 94-96, MassHS Transcript.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1775

Providence, May 20.

We hear that two small Vessels having been lately seized by the Men of War at Newport, and fitted out as Cruizers, for the Purpose of robbing and plundering

the Sea Coast, in order to supply their Fellow-Ruffians at Boston with fresh Provisions, the Inhabitants of Dartmouth dispatched an armed Sloop to take them, which was accomplished; one of them struck without making any Resistance, the other was taken after a short Contest, wherein one of our People and three of the Enemy were wounded. — The Prisoners (except the Wounded) about 17 in Number, were sent to Taunton.

Captain William Chace, from Baltimore-Town, in Maryland, advises, that an Account of the late Engagement with the King's Troops was received there by Land in six Days, when the Inhabitants immediately took Possession of the Provincial Magazine, with 1500 Small Arms, and secured all the Military Stores that could be found in private Hands . . .

Capt. Chace likewise informs, that the Governor of Virginia had fled on board a Man of War, to avoid the Resentment of the People on Account of the Part he took in a late Seizure of Powder at Williamsburg, and that it was thought he would go to Boston.

“REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*”¹

May 1775 AM Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour
Saturdy 20 Stop'd the Sloop *Collector*, Nichols Webster Master with Provisions.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

CAPTAIN J. COLLET TO CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY, R.N.¹

(Copy) Fort Johnston [North Carolina] May 20th 1775.

Sir, I am credibly informed that a Body of Militia in this Province have actually taken Arms against the Government and are determined to attack His Majesty's Fort and Garrison under my Command, in order to enable themselves to oppose and keep off His Majesty's Ships and Troops, that may be ordered here: In this Fort the King has a very valuable Sett of Artillery, but a very inconsiderable Number of men to defend it; & above all my Store of Powder is just exhausted, & most likely the Supply His Excellcy. Genl. [Thomas] Gage is sending will come too late: It is my Duty to lay my situation before you & crave your Assistance and Protection, with which I am conscious I can repulse any Force, and answer the trust reposed in me; any quantity of Powder you can spare me will be received most thankfully (for I have not to load again after the first firing) & the proximity of your Ship will ansr all my wishes;

I am respectfully, Sir [&c.]

J: Collet²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

2. “Mr Collett . . . still is Governor of Fort Johnson in North Carolina, appointed by order from England, and left to the Province for his Pay who have refused to Pay him any Salary, because he was not of their own Appointment,” Gage to Barrington, January 6, 1773, Gage Mss., CL.



EUROPEAN THEATRE

From December 6, 1774, to June 26, 1775



The Political Cartoons for the Year 1775.

EUROPEAN THEATRE

From December 6, 1774, to June 26, 1775

SUMMARY

George III and his Privy Council, which, in October, 1774, had decreed no more shipments of gunpowder or arms to the colonies, had no thought that this might prove a tinder spark to ignite the latent fires of resistance in a continent already seething under the Coercive Acts passed by Parliament earlier in that same year. To the minds of Ministry and Parliament the hotbed of rebellion was New England, and more specifically, Massachusetts. That there might be some armed demonstration there was considered a possibility. Should it occur, it could and would be decisively crushed. Opinions differed as to whether the navy alone would be sufficient to the task, or if army reinforcements should be sent to Boston. That question was still undecided as the year 1774 drew to a close.

No other problem confronted the British Empire at that time. India was quiescent under the firm hand of Warren Hastings, its first titular governor. Russia, emerging as a world power after crushing the Turks, was consolidating the fruits of victory in the Crimea. Spain, ever smarting under depredations of the Barbary Pirates, was concentrating upon a punitive expedition, and repressing, though not forgetting, its ambitions to recover Gibraltar, Minorca and Florida. Holland, no longer a great sea power, had declined politically to a nonentity. Finally France, because of its Family Compact with Spain, would scarcely move while the latter was involved in the Mediterranean.

Yet, in December, 1774, the French chargé d'affaires in London had been approached by American sympathizers, who queried whether, in case of a break with England, the colonists might look for an alliance with, or, at least, secret support from France. The Comte de Vergennes, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and one of the ablest of European statesmen, received this report with pleasure, but caution. His was an undying hatred for Great Britain, and a consecrated determination to restore to France the world-wide prestige lost, along with Canada, in the French and Indian War. Years before he had made the sage remark that with Canada surrendered, the American colonists need no longer look to the Mother Country for protection and, when the tax burden became too onerous, would strike off their dependence upon her. Whether this moment was at hand remained to be seen. He had no intention of placing France in an untenable position by too early support of what might prove an abortive revolt. His policy was to wait and watch.

6 Dec. 1774

ARTHUR LEE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

My Dear Brother The temper of the times is painted in such legible colours in the King's Speech, that no one can remain in doubt that arms are to be used to

divest us of our Liberties. You will see by the Paper our Brother incloses that the Lords have promised their support. Yesterday the Commons did the same on a division of 254 to 60. The new Parlaiment is therefore engaged to maintain this sanguinary System, to which the King in readg his Speech marked his hearty assent, to the astonishment of his Hearers, by giving a studied emphasis to those words which were severe against America.

You have now the whole before you. If your Non-importation & Non-exportation Agreement be not immediately executed & religiously observed, Arms or Submission must decide the Controversy. The prohibition of exporting Arms & Ammunition from here ought to teach you a great deal. I need not mention how deplorable how despicable his situation must be, who talks high of resistance & yet makes no preparation. He who talks of drawing the Sword should not only have it to draw, but see that it be sharp. I woud recommend to you the example of Cromwell who had a Troop of his own neibours, tried & personally attachd to him, at the head of which he was always enabled to make a decisive impression.

The present intention of the Ministry is to declare all Meetings & associations in America illegal & treasonable – to guard the Coast agst all traffic & communication with Holland France & Spain – to corrupt New York – and to employ a military force, chiefly from Canada, if necessary. Having their designs before you, your attention I trust will be bent to defeat them with that earnestness which the greatest question in the world demands.

As in future it may be necessary to write some things in Cypher, that wch I shall use & wch you may use to me will be in figures each figure standing for a Letter of the same number in the Alphabet. For example King 219247. K being the 21st, i the 9th n, the 24th & g the 7th Letter in the alphabet. When it gets to ten, two figures are necessary for one Letter, therefore I join them together by a stroke across, which I think woud puzzle a decypherer the more. As a farther security no name shoud be signd, the date but not the place, inclosd in a Cover addressd by another hand, & no address at the beginning

I wish you woud keep a watchful eye over Capt [Edward] Foy. His disposition is insolent & arbitrary, however he may cover it & depend upon it his endeavors will not be unexercised to enslave us.

You have Lead mines & can prepare Salt Petre in your Tobacco Houses; for gods sake begin your Preparations in time – talk little & do much. Let not necessity come upon you like an armd man, & find you defenceless. Sir Willm Draper has publishd a proposal for emancipating your Negroes by royal Proclamation & arming them against you. The proposal met with approbation from ministerial People. Do not laugh at it, till you are sure it woud be vain. If you apprehend it wou'd be dangerous take proper precautions against it. Considering the proposals which are made & the measures taken here against us I think it perfectly just, & I am sure it is necessary that you shoud withhold the payment of your Debts to the Merchants here. It is but truth to say that they are the bitterest enemies we have. It is not once, but a thousand times they have said of us – “Let them pay us our debts & go to the Devil.”

. . . The french Court is settling its internal Affairs, with great attention & wisdom. The Minister makes no secret of his intention to assist us. But it should be our care so to exert ourselves as to make as little as possible of such perilous assistance necessary. Are you sure that the ultimate aim of the Governor's & his Secretary's late expedition was not to debauch them from the service of their Country in the great question & to give them that Privilege of the Country as to enable them to oppose those who may arm in support of their Rights. Let no means be omitted of cultivating and inflaming the frontier men, who are by much the most capable of making a stand. I suppose no more Assemblies will be calld till things are settled, therefore you shd look forward & provide against the consequences of that.

I throw before you all the thoughts wch float in my anxious mind. Some of them I hope may be useful. Make a memorandum of what is material in this Letter & then burn it.

Adieu

A L

[London] Decr 6th 1774.

1. Arthur Lee folder, VHS.

13 Dec.

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA"¹

1774.

13th December 16,000 Men, including 4,284 Marines, were voted for the Year 1775.

1. Germain Papers, CL. The document is endorsed, "Summary of the / orders given by / the Admiralty / relative to America / 1775." It continues to October 25, 1775, and a second document, which includes the first one and winds up in December, 1775, is also in the Germain Papers.

15 Dec.

WILLIAM LEE TO JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

London 15/Decr 1774.

Dear Sir I am favord with yours of July 10th & am much obliged by the consignmt of 4 hhds of Tobo P Roman for which I hope shortly to transmit you satisfactory sales

You will in all probability be a gainer by the Tobo you have left in the Country of the old crop, since there is almost an absolute certainty of the price rising greatly here upon yr exportation stoping in Sepr, which I presume will most certainly take place according the Continental association, as there does not appear any chance of yr grievances being redressed this session of Parliamt, but I am firmly of opinion, that a strict & firm perseverance on the part of America in the measures adopted by the congress of her States, must inevitably procure her Justice at last. And I am also further of opinion, that the longer the contest continues the more it will contribute to the benefit & independance of America. In this contest the Tobo Colonies cannot loose as the price of one crop on the

exportation stoping will nearly equal that of two. As yr importation of goods is stopd Mr Sadlers musick &c, cannot be sent now, however I hope Capt Brown will receive your kind assistance & advice in his loading the *Adventure* . . . I recommend Capt Brown to yr protection & assistance & with my most respectful Compts to yr good Lady & Family remain [&c.]

William Lee

1. MdHS.

22 Dec.

ALEXANDER EMSLEY TO SAMUEL JOHNSON¹

[Extract]

London 22d Decr 1774

And[rew] Knox sent me an Order but it came too late no Ships now take in Goods for Virginia, you must therefore give me your Orders if you would have me send them, to [North] Carolina, for they continue to ship goods still to your Province.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, IX, 1095.

23 Dec.

PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL
SAMUEL GRAVES AT BOSTON¹

Sir,

[Admiralty Office] 23d December 1774

Commodore [Molyneux] Shuldham having acquainted my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that from the advices he had received of the Disturbances at Boston, he judged it expedient to order the *Rose*, one of the Ships of his Squadron, to carry some Land Forces thither, and had directed her Commander to follow your Orders for his further proceedings; I have it in command from their Lordships to signify their direction to you to send the said Ship forthwith to Spithead, with directions to Captain [James] Wallace to wait there for their Lordships further Orders.

And it being the resolution of the Board, to relieve such Officers as have served three years successively in His Majesty's Ships; I have it further in command from their Lordships to signify their directions to you, to order Captain [Edward] Meadows of the *Tartar*, Captain [William] Maltby of the *Glasgow*, and Captain [James] Ayscough of the *Swan* Sloop, who are in that predicament to proceed to Spithead as soon as they can be spared from their respective Stations, without manifest detriment to the Service on which they are employed, it being their Lordships intention to send out other Ships from hence to supply their places; and as you will see that the principal Object of their Lordships is, to relieve the Captains, you will not permit them to exchange into other Ships, as in case they do, other Officers will be sent out to superceed them. I am &ca

P: S

(By the *Falcon* Sloop)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 189, NYHS Transcript.

1 Jan. 1775 (Sunday)

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA"¹

1775.

1st January – The Force in North America under the command of Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves consisting of

Rate	Ships	Men		
3d	3	1,540		
4	1	320	Ships	Men
6	7	940	23	3,445
Sloops	5	420		
Schooners	6	180		
Armd Vessl	1	45.		
And there was at the same time fitting out to			1.	100
join him one Sloop				
Together			24.	4,445 ²

1. Germain Papers, CL.

2. Error in addition. Number of men given as 4,445 in document should be 3,545.

13 Jan.

WILLIAM LEE TO FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE¹

[Extract]

London 13 January, 1775

We have a report from Glasgow that Ld Dunmore² is dead; should he not, I hope the Assembly when it meets will roast him well for his many vile and infamous governmental Acts. The Merchants and Traders in London have agreed on a Petition to Parliament for redress of American Commerce. I was one of the Come for drawing it up and one for presenting it and managing it – therefore have have had full opportunity of knowing. There is nothing very serious in this business, therefore do not expect any great good from it, for really nothing can rouse the good people here till they *feel*, which is not the case at present, but will be woefully so in 12 months. You must persevere in the plan adopted by the Congress and leave it to work here.

1. W. C. Ford, ed., *The Letters of William Lee* (Brooklyn, 1878), I, 109, 110. Hereafter cited as Ford, ed., *Lee*.

2. John Murray, Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia.

17 Jan.

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co.¹

Gentlemen

Bristol 17 Jany 1775

I have your favors 3 Oct & 25 Novr since I had the pleasure of writing you the 28 Decr

Wheat is now fixed at 7/ pr Bushel & if any alteration it will be for the better. Flour 17/ d 19/ – Indian Corn 3/9. Messrs Hewes & Co wrote me that they

expected a Cargo very soon from you, & I gave them our prices. I suppose I shall have her here, as the best American wheat sells there from 50/ to 51/ – & our prices are equal to 56/. Mr Elliot writes me that the *Hopewell* is at last arrived in London witht touching at Falmouth, the Cargo in bad order tho' better than expected.

I find by the Lists that the *Friendship* Young is arrived at Maryland I shall therefore be expecting to hear her Destination.

The duty being taken of Indian Corn will be an Advantage to you in the sale of the *Hopewell's* Cargo. I am glad that this first Service of Mr [Edmund] Burke to his friends here, should be of the first Advantage to your House

I hope the Bills you mention to draw on account of the *Friendship* if She comes here will not be at a short Sight, but you will take Care to make them agreable in that particular. I shall pay due Honour to them. Your Exchange is fallen amazingly.

I mentioned the prices of Wheat, but did not that the demand is briske, & a prospect of advance towards the Spring. We have had little or no frost, & remarkable mild weather. In general these Winters do not produce good Corn harvests in the succeeding Seasons.

The Ministry keep their resolves very secret about American affairs. London has petitioned, so has this place. Several Gentlemen were very active in promoting a petition here, though not without a good deal of opposition from the other party (for even party Spirit reigns tho' in a matter of Trade of such consequence.) Mr Burke's friends in particular have forwarded this Business, indeed that Gentleman the more he is known the more he must be admired. I send you by this Conveyance a Speech of his on the American Bills last Spring, a most masterly one indeed it must be so or it could not be Mr Burke's The Ministry have acted a weak & a wicked part in their political System towards America which will be remembered long & heavily felt by both Countries. In any thing that occurs I shall write you for I truly am Gentlemen [&c.]

Rich Champion

1. Robert Morris Papers, HUL.

18 Jan.

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA"¹

1775

18th [January] The King's pleasure was signified by [William Henry Zuylestein] the Earl of Rochford for a reinforcement of Ships & Marines to be sent to Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves; And, On the same day three Sloops (which as well as the other Ships &c. order'd in consequence (see in the annex'd List)² were order'd to be fitted, and Transport Vessels to be provided for carry ing 700 Marines, Officers & Noncommission'd Officers included, to Boston.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

2. The list was not included with the Abstract.

19 Jan.

M. GARNIER, FRENCH CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES IN ENGLAND, TO COUNT DE
VERGENNES, FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER ¹

[Extract]

London, 19 January 1775

My lord, I had the honor to inform you in my letter No. 236 at the beginning of last Nov. that the plan agreed upon by the Ministry with reference to the province of Massachusett was to forbid all trade with this province and abandon it to its own anarchy, if the governor was unable to form a Civil Chamber in order to enforce the law by civil means. I could not doubt the reality of this determination which I held from the best source. This only was what was meant by the furthering of the recourse to strength.

The speech of the King at the opening of Parliament seemed to attribute more energy to the intentions of the Ministry according to public opinion and it was generally believed that hostilities were unavoidable. In these agitated times came the news of the resolutions passed by the Congress that were to leave no doubt as to the firmness and unanimity of the Americans. Since all the Colonies had become equally guilty, it was no longer a question to know whether or not one would continue using a few regiments and a few ships in order to deal severely with a rebellious province. The progress of the rebellion required a more extensive plan and the question was to determine whether or not European England would wage war against American England. . . .

If I am well informed of the resolutions decided upon, they deal mainly with two subjects: first, to pass a bill temporarily forbidding any trade with the Americans; second, to give orders to the various governors of the Colonies so that they call upon all the inhabitants who disapprove the resolutions passed by the Congress to sign their names during a given time, by means of which the Government promises them efficient support against all comers, beyond which time all those who will not have conformed with this injunction will be declared traitors to their country and treated as such.

This is the counter-part of what the Americans themselves are doing to day and it is obviously designed to provoke division among them. You will be better judge than myself, My Lord, as to the effect that can be expected, but it seems to me that it will bring civil war. The King of England apparently believed that this course was preferable to that of losing His authority by calling Myd. Chatham into his Council. He is embarking on quite an arduous journey and I wish he will come to a safe port. If he succeeds, His authority will be established more than ever and he will probably be rid for always of His fright of Lord Chatham; if he fails, he will have delayed at least for some time the coming of this Minister into His Council.

The Ministers who have been expressing themselves for some time only in the vaguest and most reserved terms, are speaking today with more authority. The Americans are accused of wishing to destroy the act of navigation, although they avoided to attack this subject in the resolutions that they published. As long as conciliatory ways were left open, one tried here to lessen the importance

of their crimes. 'Today, they are made more guilty than they actually are. It is claimed that it would be better not to have any Colonies at all than support some on the footing that the Americans request, and should one give in to their claims, one should see tomorrow Ireland presenting identical ones to which one should also have to give in; finally the power of the King would become as insignificant as that of the King of Poland; should he weaken at this time. Myd. Townshend, Great Master of the Artillery, spoke to me in this tone yesterday and added that had he thought he were not able to subdue the Americans, *he would not have been so treacherous as to go that very day and pay his court to the King.*

However, things are proceeding as usual in America. Evil is spreading rapidly; and the number of petitions that several corporations are preparing here in order to present them to the Parliament is increasing. The Corporation of Bristol agreed upon one on the 13th of this month; the merchants and plantation owners in the West Indies are doing the same thing. The latter are all the more alarmed because they are forced to send for in Europe what they used to get from the Continent and they claim that the increased expenses will cause them to lose more than half of their income. So the campaign begins today and it will not be long before the papers concerning America are presented to the Parliament that will appoint committees in order to examine them. It will be on the basis of the report of these committees that the legislative body will take its decisions; thus, within a short time, we will know what to expect.

[P.S.] The Admiralty has just informed me that the order has been given to fit out eight corvettes for America. They are: *Senegal, Merlin, Otter, Cherokee, Surprise, Pomona, Martin, Zephyr.* This piece of news, My lord, seems to confirm undoubtedly the intention of which I had the honor to speak to you to stop the trade of the Americans.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 508, 249, LC Photocopy. This document and all others from the French Archives have been translated by Professor Bernard P. Lebeau, U.S. Naval Academy.

20 Jan.

WILLIAM PITT, EARL OF CHATHAM, SPEECH IN BRITISH PARLIAMENT¹

[Extract]

Jan. 20 [1775].

. . . of this spirit of independence, animating the nation of America, I have the most authentic information. It is not new among them; it is, and has ever been, their established principle, their confirmed persuasion: it is their nature and their doctrine. . . .

Trade is an extended and complicated consideration: it reaches as far as ships can sail or winds can blow: it is a great and various machine. To regulate the numberless movements of its several parts, and combine them into effect, for the good of the whole, requires the superintending wisdom and energy of the supreme power in the empire. . . .

When your lordships look at the papers transmitted us from America; when you consider their decency, firmness, and wisdom, you cannot but respect their

cause, and wish to make it your own. . . . I have read Thucydides, and have studied and admired the master-states of the world—that for solidity of reasoning, force of sagacity, and wisdom of conclusion, under such a complication of difficult circumstances, no nation or body of men, can stand in preference to the general Congress at Philadelphia. . . .

Every motive, therefore, of justice and of policy, of dignity and of prudence, urges you to allay the ferment in America—by a removal of your troops from Boston—by a repeal of your acts of parliament—and by demonstration of amicable dispositions towards your colonies. On the other hand, every danger and every hazard impend, to deter you from perserverance in your present ruinous measures.—Foreign war hanging over your heads by a slight and brittle thread: France and Spain watching your conduct, and waiting for the maturity of your errors;—with a vigilant eye to America, and the temper of your colonies, more than to their own concerns, be they what they may.

1. *The Parliamentary History of England From the Earliest Period to the Year 1803* (London, 1813), XVIII, 149–156. Hereafter cited as *Parliamentary History*.

22 Jan. (Sunday)

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co.¹

Gentlemen This Vessel is in the Road waiting. I have therefore only time to say, that I have this moment reced a Letter from London, mentioning, that in a debate last friday [January 20] in the House of Lords on Lord Chatham's Motion to withdraw the Troops from Boston as a conciliatory Step – The Ministry declared, through Lord Suffolk, that they are determind to embrace no conciliatory measures, but will persist in the plan of the last Session, & enforce an entire obedience. Lord Chatham was supported by Lords Rockingham Camden Shelburn & D[uke] of Richmond. For the Ministry Lords Suffolk, Lyttelton Townsend Gower Rockford & Weymouth Division 60 to 18 against – This news you may depend on – Whether they will persist time will determine, but I thought it nessary to let you know this Corn the same I am always [&c.]

R Champion 22 Jany 1775

1. Morris Papers, HUL.

23 Jan.

“ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA”¹

1775. The King's pleasure was signified by Lord Rochford to provide
23d [January] Transports for carrying to Boston the 35th 49th & 63d Regiments of Foot, the 17th Regiment of Light Dragoons and 500. Drafts & Recruits with 40 Officers and 26. Noncommis-sion'd Officers,—And, on the next day, Orders were given accordingly.



William Pitt, First Earl of Chatham. From the studio of Richard Brompton, 1772.

- 28th [Do] Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves was directed to concert with General [Thomas] Gage whether any Measures could be taken to oblige the People of Rhode Island to restore some Cannon which they had seized, And to take such steps as should be judged adviseable.
- Do Vice Admiral Graves was directed in pursuance of the Kings pleasure signified by [William Legge] Lord Dartmouth in his Letter of this date to lose no time in sending one of the Sloops of his Squadron to the Mouth of Savanna River in Georgia with Orders to her Commander to consult with Govr [James] Wright upon the means by which her Station there might be render'd useful to His Majesty's Service and to the support and protection of His Majesty's Government. — The Vice Admiral was also order'd to purchase, man, arm and put under the Command of Lieutenants three more Schooners to be employed as part of his Squadron.

I. Germain Papers, CL.

PETITION OF THE LONDON MERCHANTS TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ¹

[Extract]

Jan. 23 [1775]

That the petitioners are all essentially interested in the trade to North-America, either as exporters and importers, or as venders of British and foreign goods for exportation to that country; and that the petitioners have exported, or sold for exportation, to the British colonies in North-America, very large quantities of the manufacture of Great Britain and Ireland, and in particular the staple articles of woollen, iron, and linen, also those of cotton, silk, leather, pewter, tin, copper, and brass, with almost every British manufacture; also large quantities of foreign linens and other articles imported into these kingdoms, from Flanders, Holland, Germany, the East Countries, Portugal, Spain, and Italy, which are generally received from those countries in return for British manufactures; and that the petitioners have likewise exported, or sold for exportation, great quantities of the various species of goods imported into this kingdom from the East-Indies, part of which receive additional manufacture in Great Britain; and that the petitioners receive returns from North-America to this kingdom directly, viz. pig and bar iron, timber, staves, naval stores, tobacco, rice, indico, deer and other skins, beaver and furs, train oil, whalebone, bees wax, pot and pearl ashes, drugs, and dying woods, with some bullion, and also wheat flour, Indian corn and salted provisions, . . . a total stop is now put to the export trade with the greatest and most important part of North America, the public revenue is threatened with a large and fatal diminution, the petitioners with grievous distress, and thousands of industrious artificers and manufacturers with utter ruin; under these alarming circumstances, the petitioners receive no small comfort, from a persuasion that the representatives of the people, newly delegated to the most important of all trusts, will take the whole of these weighty matters into their most serious consideration; and therefore praying the House, that they will enter into a full and immediate examination of

that system of commercial policy, which was formerly adopted, and uniformly maintained, to the happiness and advantage of both countries, and will apply such healing remedies as can alone restore and establish the commerce between Great Britain and her colonies on a permanent foundation . . .

1. *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 168–171. Similar petitions expressing grave concern over disruption of the American commerce were received by the House from Bristol, Glasgow, Birmingham and elsewhere. The Bristol petition set forth, “That a very beneficial and encreasing trade has been carried on from the port of Bristol, highly to the advantage of the kingdom in general and of the said city in particular . . .” And, the West Indian planters appealed to Parliament “to preserve the intercourse between the West India islands and the northern colonies, to the general harmony and lasting benefit of the whole British empire. . . .” *Ibid* 179 and 221.

27 Jan.

LORD ROCHFORD TO LORD STORMONT, BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE ¹

[Extract]

St James's 27th Janry 1775

We have certain Intelligence that a very illicit Trade is carrying on to His Majesty's Colonies in America, as well by British as foreign Ships, and as it becomes so necessary in the present Juncture to prevent as much as possible the continuance of it, Orders have been sent to the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships in the American Seas to be particularly attentive to intercept and seize any British or foreign Ships which may be found with prohibited Goods, or warlike Stores destined for His Majesty's Colonies in America. I have thought it not improper to mention this to Monsr Garnier and Your Excellency may take an opportunity of giving the same notice to Monsr de Vergennes as it will be much easier to prevent Mischief than to apply a Remedy to it afterwards.

1. PRO, State Papers 78/295. Similar and in some cases, more strongly worded notices were sent to British representatives in other European capitals.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 27 January 1775

My lord, The dice are cast: the Government seems to be determined to break down the Americans. In addition to the marines which it has been decided to send, as I had the honor to inform you, the order was sent last wednesday to the Vice-Roy of Ireland to prepare everything for the transport of three infantry regiments and one light cavalry regiment. Each infantry regiment consists of one battalion of 477 men. The light cavalry regiment stationed in Ireland is made up of six companies and at the present consists only of 179 dragoons. But 18 men will be added to each company, half of whom will be recruited in Ireland and the other half will be on detachment from the light cavalry of Elliot and Burgoyne stationed in Great Britain. The latter numbering only 94 men will embark without their horses. Since they are all good horsemen, it was deemed that they could easily get used to the horses they will find in America. These reinforcements, including the marines number 2,418 men, and the Governement states that General Gage will have about 9,000 men under his command. He will receive at the same time an additional detachment of artillery. . . .

As Myd Rochford spoke to me on this subject yesterday, he was kind enough to explain positively that the intention was not so much to act with hostility against the Americans as to encourage in the Colonies the friends of the Government who had not dared declare their opinions for lack of sufficient forces to protect them. However, if these troops are to be used solely for the protection of well-disposed people, they run the risk to be weak everywhere since they will be spread throughout the various colonies. . . .

This Minister informed me that he would write to Myd Stormont today and instruct him to convey to you the decision taken by the Gouvernement to stop completely the trade of the Americans, considering that they trade only in contraband upon which a closer watch will be kept than in the past. All foreign or national ships that will be found loaded with war ammunition for the Americans or trading with the English Colonies on the Continent will be seized. I am inclined to believe, My lord, that the British Ambassador will only allude to this matter and with great caution. I answered Myd Rochford that the Court of London could rely upon the strict observance of the treaties on our part, and that in matters of justice, since the King conformed to it as faithfully with respect to his neighbors as he expected the same on their part, His Majesty would always suit the precept to the example.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 508, 251, LC Photocopy.

28 Jan.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO
VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

By &c.

Whereas it has been represented to the King that there is a necessity that a Sloop of War should be immediately stationed at or near the Mouth of Savannah River in Georgia; You are hereby required and directed, in pursuance of his Majesty's Pleasure signified to Us by the Earl of Darmouth one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, to lose no time in sending thither one of the Sloops of War under your command, with Orders to the Commander of such Sloop to consult from time to time with Sir James Wright His Majesty's Governor of that Province, upon the means by which her Station there may be rendered useful to His Majesty's Service, and to the Support and Protection of His Majesty's Government. Given &c 28th Jany 1775

By &c. P.S.

Sandwich
J. Buller
C. Spencer

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 258, NYHS Transcript.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO
VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

By &c.

You are hereby required and directed forthwith to purchase Three Schooners upon the best and cheapest terms you can for His Majesty and to draw upon the Navy Board for the Expence thereof,

You are to cause them to be armed fitted, Manned, Victualled and Stored and put in every respect upon the same Establishment as His Majesty's Schooners already under your Command, transmitting to Us the Names you may think proper to give them that they may be register'd accordingly on the List of the Royal Navy, and you are to employ the said Schooners in such manner as you shall judge best for His Majesty's Service. Given &c the 28th Jany 1775.

By &c. P.S.

Sandwich
Palmerston
A. Hervey.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 259, NYHS Transcript.

PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY, TO
VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 28h January 1775

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having received a Letter from Lieutenant [Henry] Colins, Commander of the *Magdalen* Schooner at Philadelphia, desiring that when their Lordships shall think it convenient for His Majesty's Service to order a Schooner from those Parts, the above may be ordered home, as his private affairs require his presence in England; I am commanded by their Lordships to send you herewith a Copy of the said Letter, and to acquaint you that the said Schooner cannot be sent to England meerly to accomodate the Lieutenant, but that if his private affairs render it absolutely necessary for him to come to England, their Lordships have no objection to your permitting him to resign the Command of the Schooner, and appointing another Officer to her in his room. I am &c

P. S.

Vice Admiral Graves at Boston By the *Falcon* Sloop at Portsmo.

Duplicate sent 3 March

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 228, NYHS Transcript.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 28h January 1775

I have received and communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letters of the 23d September, 30h of October, 3d 4th and 20th of November, and 15th of December last, giving an account of your proceedings with the Squadron under your Command; And in return I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that their Lordships very well approve thereof.

You will have observed by my Letter of the 23d of last Month that their Lordships were pleased to direct you to send the *Rose* immediately to England being one of the Newfoundland Squadron and also the *Tartar*, *Glasgow*, and *Swan* Sloop, for the reasons thereinmentioned, when they could with propriety be spared from their respective Stations. I am now to acquaint you that their Lordships have ordered another Frigate to be fitted out for the Newfoundland

Station, and that you are therefor to consider the *Rose* as one of the Ships of your Squadron and to employ her in such manner as you shall judge best for His Majesty's Service; But as her Captain is in the same predicament as those of the two Ships and Sloop abovementioned, Vizt that of having commanded her upwards of three Years, their Lordships would have you send her, together with them to England at the fall of the Year, when they can no longer cruize upon the Coast, unless the exigency of the Service entrusted to your care, should render it necessary for you to keep them still longer in America; in which case you are at liberty to do so.

Their Lordships have ordered Six Sloops to be fitted out as soon as possible to reinforce the Squadron under your Command, and will send them to you, as they are severally in readiness; Besides which, the *St Lawrence* Schooner will be refitted and sent back, and you will see, by their Lordships order of this date, that you are to cause three New Schooners to be purchased and put upon the same Establishment as His Majesty's other Schooners. If besides this Reinforcement You should judge it expedient to hire two or three Schooners in addition to those which you were directed to hire by their Lordships Order of the 13h of October (as you seem by your Letter of the 15h of December to think you should) their Lordships are pleased to permit you to do so, taking care however that they be continued in the Service no longer than shall be absolutely necessary.

I have nothing further in Command from their Lordships but to recommend it to you to concert with General [Thomas] Gage whether any measures can be taken to oblige the People of Rhode Island to restore the Cannon mentioned in Captain [James] Wallace's Letter and to take such Steps thereupon as shall be judged adviseable. I am &c

P: S.

By the *Falcon* Sloop at Portsmouth

Duplicate sent 3 March

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 229, NYHS Transcript.

29 Jan.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

By &c.

Captain [John] Linzee, Commander of His Majesty's Sloop the *Falcon*, (by whom you will receive this) being directed to put himself under your command and follow your Orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required and directed to take him under your command accordingly, and employ him, and the said Sloop, in such manner as shall appear to you best for His Majesty's Service entrusted to your care. Given &c. the 29th Jany 1775.

By &c. P. S.

Sandwich
J. Buller
A. Hervey

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 261, NYHS Transcript.

31 Jan.

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co.¹

Gentlemen

Bristol 31 Jany 1775

I wrote you a few Lines to give you the melancholy News of the designs of Ministry to persist in their foolish and wicked Attempts against America the Wind having ever since detained this Vessel I am enabled to acknowledge the receipts of your favors of 10.21 & 21 Decr The Insurance was made agreeable to your orders. The *Friendship* does not yet appear. I shall pay due Honour to your Bill to Mess Sayers Chambers & Co £981.15 – when you draw payable in London you will please to draw at a longer date than here; as the difference of time is from twenty to thirty days owing to a provision being necessary to be made there in time

Notwithstanding the Arrival of several Cargoes Wheat continues at 7/ & will be supported tho the Sale will be slower than common however I am happy in being able to render you in all probability if the Vessel arrives safe, & the Cargo in good order a good Sales.

I never was so much at a loss what to think of the approaching Period, as I am at present. The Country is in want of grain, & had it not been for these Supplies, we should have been in great distress. Many Cargoes arriving together, tho' they occasioned the sale's being now slow yet the prices do not, & will not fall below 7/. but how this will be when the Manufacturers are discharged from Employment and a scene of riot & confusion ensues is empossible to foresee If the Populace should rise for they must be in a Starving State, Granaries generally become the first sacrifices & Corn must be sold out cheap to satisfy them. These Disorders are to be expected. I should therefore think it most prudent by no means to venture at this market at a hyrer price than what the *friendships'* cost & at the Exchange you quote; even this is too high in my opinion to ballance the hazard which may accrue from the expected disburstanc[e]s in England. I am of opinion that the Months of July & August will not be the worst for prices, as the Season this Winter has been so very mild, as to make us expect the Spring to be very backward, & consequently the Summer to be unfavorable to the Harvest a Circumstance which often happens. Besides in this Country there are some complaints of the Corn from the extream wet, which may in the End prove of bad consequence. These are now Conjectures which Time only can determine but they appear to me to be founded on some probability so much so, that I will be concerned one third in two or three Cargoes of fine Wheat of the prices you mention at not exceeding the prices of Six Shillings p bushel or even on board of Six Shillings & Six pence; higher I have given you my reasons why I think it imprudent, & this is beyond what I think Wheat will be at with you, when the demand is a little abated. You will please to let your motions be governed by the quantities you know are destined for our market, which by your extensive Correspondence you will be able to learn. I shall keep you constantly advised The *Champion* Stanton belonging to me I have if not loaded at Carolina ordered to Philadelphia. if he does not get a good freight at Carolina, he is to come to Philadelphia, when if you can load him at these Events please to do it, if not get him

the best freight here you can. Your Bills shall meet due Honour for what you draw on my Account, & on yours also, which I shall be obliged to you to do at as long a date as you can, & after the Vessels are sailed if convenient, as it will make the advance easier, & I should be glad to give every assistance in my power to you.

I am going to London on the business of a very frivolous Petition presented against the setting Members by the unsuccessful Candidate When I am there I shall advise you every thing I can collect respecting America bad News it must be as the Ministers are determined upon pursuing their foolish & wicked Measures. The Merchants they have treated with great Contempt – We petitioned here but all to no purpose. Mr [Edmund] Burke which you will see by the publick prints has exerted himself in behalf of America, but a corrupt Majority in Parliament oversets every present Attempt. You will excuse my farther enlarging now. I shall only add that in every part of your Business here I shall exert myself in showing how much I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Rich Champion

1. Morris Papers, HUL.

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co.¹

Gentlemen.

Bristol January 31. 1775

Since I wrote you this morning I have an Account of the Ship *Friendships* arrival in our River; I have not yet seen Capn Young but expect him up every moment –

I am with great Esteem Gentlemen [&c.]

For Richard Champion
Henry Kent

1. Morris Papers, HUL.

“ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH
ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA”¹

1775.

31st [January] Vice Admiral [William] Parry Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at the Leeward Islands was directed in pursuance of His Majesty's pleasure signified by the Earl of Rochford on the 26th to be particularly attentive to the illicit Trade carried on from St Eustatia & other Dutch Settlements to His Majesty's Colonies in America, and to direct the Captains & Commanders of the Ships & Vessels under his command to intercept & seize any British or Foreign Ships which might be found carrying on an illicit Trade and to have on board prohibited Goods, – Merchandize or warlike Stores destined to the said Colonies; and to instruct the said Captains &c. to behave with the necessary moderation & prudence in the execution of it.

By a subsequent Order of the 27th of February, he was in pursuance of the King's further pleasure signified by Lord

Rochford on the 24th told (and directed accordingly) that it was only intended that *such Foreign Ships* should be examined and seized as might be found hovering about His Majesty's Colonies in America or within 2 Leagues from the Land, and that *they* should not be seized on the high Seas at more than that distance unless upon some particular well founded Information of their having on board prohibited Goods & Merchandize or Warlike Stores destined for His Majesty's said Colonies. But that this Restriction was not to extend to Ships belonging to His Majesty's Subjects.

N.B

Like Orders were given to Vice Admiral [James] Young on the 15th of April 1775. previous to his going out to relieve Vice Admiral Parry.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

3 Feb.

JOHN HOBSON TO STEPHEN WEST ¹

Dear Sir

London Feby 3d 1775.

I wrote you two days ago by the Packet in which I acknowledged the receipt of your several favors down to the 28th. December altho' I could not then write in Answer fully to them for want of time – I am fully convinced that the *Somersets* Sales not getting out sooner, lost us a good deal of Tobacco, and yet those Sales were sent out much sooner after the Arrival of the Ship here, than they used some years agoe, ever to be, but now it is become a custom in order to recommend themselves and to take advantage of others for the Merchts in the Tobacco Trade some of them at least, to send out the Sales, even before the Tobacco is sold, and unfortunately for us, that Ship Arrived so late that unless we had taken the above method, there was not really a Sufficient length of time to do the business in, before the Shipping Season came on again in Maryland, and then the want of the Accounts of the *Somersets* Load, was made a pretence for not shipping more by the People, without considery whether the Sales of that Cargo had been detained or kept back longer, or even so long as in general Accots Sales, are – As to the Goods, I know they never were sent out so Irregular before, and however strange it may seem, it was owing to my wishing to have them packed and sent away better than usual, that they came to be worse, for not content with having that part of the business, done by such hands as it had generally been done for me, I employed what I, and every body thought, a sedate experienced Man, and one that had been in the business ever since he could do any thing, and yet thus I was served – I observe you say you *have* accepted the two Bills, & have given good Bonds *as Security*, but why will not you make Manduet *and the* rest here, easy by giving Land Security, for nothing *else* I know will Satisfye them, and as you *can* do it, why not – I mean no more by it *than you* do, and think the Bonds as good Security as Land, or your own Acceptance as good as either, but if other People cannot or will not think so, I cant make them –

There has been no Alteration in the price of Tobacco since I wrote you last, but it is very likely there soon may, for the resolution taken in the House of Commons last Night of sending more Ships and Men to Boston and of making Amer[ica submi]t at all events must I think have [some eff]ect – a few days will determine perhaps I may be able to say something on the Subject more, by Maynard I have sent by this Opportunity some News Papers and the Petitions of the Merchants of London to the House of Commons for your perusal – You did not say who were the Com[missione]rs here on the Guinea Affair, but I will endeavour to find out I have been spoke to by John Buchanans Trustees concerning some Evidence they say went from hence respecting William Halls Affair – of which you have however said nothing to me that I remember In tending to write you again by Maynard, I remain [&c.]

Pr. *Industry* Capt Magruder

John Hobson

1. Oden Papers, MdHS.

FLUDYER, MARSH, HUDSON AND STREATFIELD, LONDON MERCHANTS, TO
JAMES BEEKMAN¹

Feb. 3, 1775

We have duly received your favour dated 11 December acknowledgin[g] receipt of our several letters, also of your Account Current and that you found the same free of Error, which we are glad to observe. We are thankfull for your Intention to favour us with an Order if not prevented by the present unhappy situation of Public affairs. We are sorry to say, the prospect of a Speedy accomadation, between Great Britain and the Colonies seems to be at a considerable distance. We most sincerely wish that Matters may yet be amicably compromised, and every cause of difference removed, and settled in so effectual a manner as to prevent the like disagreeable events in future. Towards attaining this desirable end, our Samuel Marsh who is chose a Representative in this new Parliament, will undoubtedly do every thing in his power.

1. White, ed., *Beekman Papers*, II, 755. During early 1775 similar communications came to Beekman from other English merchants expressing strong desire for compromise and continuation of the overseas commerce so vital to the welfare of all. These included letters from George Stonehouse and Co., Bristol and Pierce and Brown, Bristol. *Ibid.* 855 and 898.

5 Feb. (Sunday)

WILLIAM BOLLAN, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AND ARTHUR LEE, TO CHARLES
THOMSON, SECRETARY OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSEMBLY¹

[Extract]

London, Febr. 5. 1775

A motion made by Lord Chatham, to withdraw the Troops from Boston, at the first Step towards a conciliatory Plan, was rejected; and the Ministry have declared, in both Houses, the Determination to enforce Obedience to all the late laws. For this Purpose, we understand that three Regiments of Foot, one of Dragoons, seven hundred Marines, six Sloops of war, and two Frigates, are now under Orders for America.

1. Franklin Papers, XV, LC.

7 Feb.

LORD SUFFOLK TO SIR JOSEPH YORKE, BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO THE HAGUE ¹

Sir,

St James's Febry 7th 1775

I have the Honor to inclose to Your Excellency a Copy of some late Orders which the Earl of Rochford has, by His Majesty's Command, transmitted to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. Your Excellency will do right to make a fair & confidential Communication of the Substance of them to The Prince of Orange & the Dutch Ministers, who cannot be surprized that, at this Conjuncture, when Our American Colonies have entered into an Association not to trade with Great Britain, Great Britain should be particularly attentive to their Counterband, & excluded from their Trade, should take especial Care that they carried none on with Foreign States. For this Purpose the Force will be increased on the respective Stations, & such Ships sent to the Leeward Islands & Elsewhere as are best adapted to the Nature of the Service they are to be employed upon.

[Enclosure]

My Lords.

Janry 26th 1775.

Intelligence having been received that a very illicit Trade has of late been carried on from St Eustatia and other Dutch Settlements to His Majesty's Colonies in America, I am commanded to signify to your Lordships His Majesty's Pleasure that you give Orders to Vice Admiral Parry to be particularly attentive to that Object & that He should direct the Commanders of the Ships & Vessels under his Command, in their respective Stations, to intercept & seize any British or Foreign Ships which may be found carrying on an illicit Trade, & which may have on board prohibited goods & Merchandize, or warlike Stores, destined to His Majesty's Colonies in America; And that the said Commanders be further directed to behave with the necessary Moderation & Prudence in the Execution of their Commission.

I am &c.

Rochford.

1. PRO, State Papers 84/546.

LORD SUFFOLK TO LEWIS DE VISME, BRITISH ENVOY TO SWEDEN ¹

[Extract]

St James's Febry 7th 1775.

Sir, I think it necessary to inform you, that the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels sent, & to be sent to the Coast of North America, are, & will be instructed, in their respective Stations, to intercept & seize any British or Foreign Ships which may be found carrying on an illicit Trade, & which may have on board prohibited Goods and Merchandize, or Warlike Stores, destined to His Majesty's Colonies. You will take an Opportunity of mentioning the Substance and Import of these Orders, to the Swedish Minister; But it will be more material, in Point of Effect, to let it be understood by the principal Swedish Merchants, as the Contraband Trade between Sweden & Our Colonies, is chiefly carried on thro' Holland & other indirect Channels.

1. PRO, State Papers 95/125.

LORD SUFFOLK TO MR. DE LAVAL, BRITISH RESIDENT TO DENMARK ¹

[Extract]

St James's Febry 7th 1775.

It becomes indispensably necessary, in the present Conjuncture, to be particularly attentive & severe with regard to the Counterband Trade of our Colonies in North America; The Commanders therefore of The King's Ships & Vessels, stationed off that Coast, are instructed, in their respective Stations, to intercept & seize any British or Foreign Ships which may be found carrying on an illicit Trade, & which may have on board prohibited Goods and Merchandize, or Warlike Stores, destined to His Majesty's Colonies. You will do right to take some Opportunity of just apprizing Monsr Bernsdorff of the Orders which have been given upon this Occasion.

1. PRO, State Papers 75/131.

LORD CAMDEN IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS ¹

[Extract]

Feb. 7. [1775]

Our commerce . . . is at once the source of our wealth and our power; it both gives us seamen to man our fleets, and money to pay them; without commerce this island, when compared with many countries on the continent, is but a small insignificant spot: it is from our commerce alone that we are intitled to that consequence we bear in the great political scale. When compared with several of the great powers of Europe, England, in the words of Shakespeare, being no more than a "bird's nest floating on a pool."

1. *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 272.**8 Feb.**COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER, LONDON ¹

[Extract]

[Versailles] 8 February 1775

The Viscount of Stormont ² spoke to me in general terms of the resolution adopted by His Government to stop the trade of the Colonies and to prevent contraband. The second item of this resolution is to conform to the conditions existing not only in the English Colonies, but all the other Colonies in America. Their trade is exclusive and does not let in foreigners. Thus, the intention announced by the British Ministry concerns a matter sanctioned by a generally adopted usage. You may assure Milord Rochford that the King will not authorize His subjects to contravene this agreement and that he will not protect those who dared transgress it; but at the same time, you will tell this Minister that we are convinced that he will have taken the necessary precautions so that the ships in charge of the surveillance of the coasts of English America do not interfere with the trade of our own Colonies, that these ships should not extend their cruise under empty excuses begotten only by a greed for spoils and should not be so bold as to come in the vicinity of our Islands and stop, visit and seize those of our ships that import the goods necessary for the consumption and defense of the said Islands and export their home produce. We do not allow ourselves to doubt that His British

Majesty has given or will give the strictest and most precise orders to that effect to the Commanding Officers of the ships that He sent or will send to America.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 508, LC Photocopy.
2. English Ambassador to French Court.

9 Feb.

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA"¹

1775.

9th February Commissions for Victualling His Majesty's Navy were order'd to send out 4. Months Provisions of all Species (except Spirits which they were to contract for) for 4,275. Men.

Do A Transport was order'd to be provided to carry the Servants, Horses & Baggage of the three Major Generals going to Boston²

1. Germain Papers, CL.
2. Major Generals William Howe, Henry Clinton, and John Burgoyne.

10 Feb.

A MESSAGE FROM KING GEORGE TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT¹

Feb. 10. The following Message was presented to both Houses:

G.R.

His Majesty being determined, in consequence of the Address of both Houses of Parliament, to take the most speedy and effectual measures for supporting the just rights of his crown, and the two Houses of Parliament, thinks proper to acquaint this House, that some addition to his forces by sea and land will be necessary for that purpose; and his Majesty doubts not but he shall have the concurrence and support of this House (on whose zeal and affection he entirely relies), in making such augmentation to his forces as the present occasion shall be thought to require.

1. *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 298.

MOTION IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS¹

Feb. 10. The House having resolved itself into a Committee on the Papers relating to the Disturbances in North America,

Lord North moved, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to restrain the trade and commerce of the provinces of Massachuset's Bay, and New Hampshire; the colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Island, and Providence Plantation in North America, to Great Britain, Ireland, and the British islands in the West Indies; and to prohibit such provinces and colonies from carrying on any fishery on the banks of Newfoundland, or other places therein to be mentioned, under certain conditions, and for a time to be limited."

[Passed in the House of Commons, Wednesday, March 8, 1775, and in the House of Lords, Tuesday, March 21, 1775]

1. *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 298-299.

13 Feb.

DEBATE IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS ¹

Feb. 13. The House being in a Committee of Supply,

Mr. [John] Buller moved, That an additional number of 2,000 men be allowed for Sea Service for the year 1775. He stated the respective services our ships were on, and said that the proposed augmentation was necessary to enforce the measures of government in America.

Lord North remarked, that the subject had been so amply discussed on Friday, by being so much blended with the means of restraining the fishery of Massachuset's Bay, that he should have the less to offer upon this occasion; that the rebellious disposition and motions of that and other colonies made it necessary to have such a guard upon the coasts of North America, that the augmentation was highly necessary; and as the people of New England could not be restrained from the fishery without some sloops stationed for that purpose, the circumstance made it doubly requisite to provide accordingly. . . .

Lord John Cavendish and Colonel Barré accused the noble lord of great inconsistency, in thinking so far to blind the House as to have it believed that the augmentation asked for could answer any purpose but to convince the Americans of the inveteracy of the mother country against them, and to throw a reconciliation to a yet greater distance: that a few thousand seamen added to the service would never effectually answer the purpose, if that purpose was to prohibit the trade of the most commercial colonies in America; that the noble lord must mean only to trifle with the House, and with mankind, in declaring one day America to be in rebellion, the next prohibiting the commerce of Massachuset's Bay, and the third coming for so insignificant an augmentation; that the gentlemen on the same side of the House had repeatedly asserted, that the commerce of the New Englanders, and much of that of the other colonies, was contraband; and that America was peopled with smugglers, to the great detriment of that advantage, which would otherwise flow to this country: how could administration, therefore, with any degree of consistency, suppose that such a system of smuggling, added to a new created system of the same, the fishery, be all kept under by any thing less than the most powerful armaments?

Captain [Thomas DeGroy, Baron] Walsingham insisted that our present naval force was by no means adequate to the execution of our professed intentions; for that the squadron we designed for America would answer no purpose of stopping their commerce; or if we did send a sufficient one, our own coasts, comparatively speaking, must be left totally defenceless; as he was well informed, that France alone had 75 men of war of the line now, more than one half of which were manned, and fit for actual service. He then gave an account of a conversation which passed lately between him and a French gentleman well acquainted with the state of their navy; from which he was fully satisfied that the whole of our force, in every part of the world, would not be sufficient to defend us at home, should we blindly rush into a civil war.

Mr. Sawbridge said, he perceived that administration were hurrying the nation to certain ruin, but he should reserve himself to speak on our present conduct towards America, till a fitter and some more convenient opportunity.

The motion was agreed to without a division.

1. *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 305-313.

14 Feb.

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA"¹

1775

14th [February] 2000. Men (including 490. Marines) were voted for the Year 1775. in addition to the 16,000. voted on the 13th December 1774.

1. *Germain Papers*, CL.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

London, 14 February 1775

I have, My lord, fully carried out your orders by observing to Myd Rochford that, as the British Government had deemed necessary to restrict the trade of New England, we do not doubt that His British Majesty gave His sea officers the strictest and most precise orders not to interfere with the trade of our Colonies and not to come near our possessions under any circumstances to visit those of our ships loaded with all that is necessary for the consumption and defense of our Colonies. Myd Rochford assured me that their naval officers had been advised to behave towards us with more caution and more reserve than ever. This minister added I was to believe that they had the greatest desire to live with us on the best terms and in perfect friendship and should some accident occur, they would be far more annoyed about it than we. . . .

This meeting took place on the 12th of this month. Some time later, I met Myd Sandwich himself and I told him of my conversation with Myd Rochford, deeming this precaution all the more important because by giving credit to Myd Rochford for his good intentions, we have more than once experienced that it is advisable to look out for his assurances and that he displays a tendency to make light his promises. Myd Sandwich did not tell me that they will place more care and caution than ever in the orders given to the sea officers. He simply assured me that should some accident occur that would rouse our complaints, they would do us justice promptly and punish the persons responsible. I answered that he knew how much easier it is to prevent than to cure and that we relied on all his care in this respect. He repeated to me the same friendly assurances that I had already received from the Secretary of State in this matter, adding that their officers would receive orders only to prevent contraband with the English Colonies, whereupon I deemed necessary to observe that these most

legitimate orders would not come against any obstacle on our part but that they were to be carried on their waters and not on ours.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 508, 254, LC Photocopy.

15 Feb.

JOSEPH GARDOQUI & SONS TO JEREMIAH LEE ¹

Dearest sir –

Bilbao 15th Feby 1775

As soon as your much esteemed favour 16th Decr came to hand, we began to Consider about the method of complying with your orders, in case of your further desire, & Altho' of a very difficulty nature, we were determind at all events to assist you accordingly, we found out means to procure as many Musketts & pistols as were ready made on the parts for the Kings Army, the quantity was but small having only 300 Muskets & Bayonetts, & about double the number of Pair of Pistols ready, but we should have done our utmost to get as many more as was to be found in order to serve you, & shall whenever you shou'd command; but must observe to you that such an Order ought to come some Months before, for all Arms on this side are made on the King's Account, & it is a rarity to find them ready made, besides which they must be got, with a good deal of Caution & Ship on the very same manner; as to secrecy you may depend it is as much our Interest as any ones as the English Embassader will look sharp in every port, & we are upon very good footing with my Lord Grantham ² Should be very Sorry he should know it – The Powder is an Article which we cannot ship unless we have timely advice, for whatever there is made in this Kingdom is for the Government, it is our opinion that Should any of your vessels be taken in the Channel loaded with those articles, she should certainly be condemned, however by having timely advise we can bring them from Holland on Reasonable Terms & ship them as you desire. We see with the utmost concern the difficulties You labour under by an unpolitical Minister's wrong direction of Affairs, But hope the Present Parliament will look into them with clearer light, & will find proper means to accomodate Matters, without going any further, allowing you your just Rights & Libertys, which we do assure you long to see it settled with all our hearts but should it be otherwise (which God forbid) command freely and you will find us at your service, we doubted not but you would be made a member of the Congress as we well know the real great Character you bear among all that know you, therefore wish you most heartily all success in every undertaking and that you may communicate us some agreeable news. We hourly look out for the *London Post*, should it bring any thing Worth yr notice – you may depend on being advised by Dr sr [&c.]

Joseph Gardoqui & sons ³

We should have said above that Corbitt delivered us your esteemd 23d Decr

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

2. Thomas Robinson, 2d Baron Grantham, British Ambassador to Spain.

3. Whether this letter ever reached Jeremiah Lee is doubtful, since he died on May 10, 1775 of a fever brought on by exposure from hiding in a cornfield while the British soldiers searched the Black Horse Tavern on the way to Lexington on April 18, 1775.

16 Feb.COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER ¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 16 February 1775

We were very surprised, Sir, by the assertion made by Myd Sandwich, concerning three French ships being loaded, according to him, at l'Orient for the English Colonies in America. Before advancing a statement of this nature, it would have been wiser on the part of this Minister to establish the facts so as not to expose himself to a denial or to the necessity of a withdrawal. Since it would undoubtedly not be fair to accuse him of carelessness, we must assume that he was very poorly informed by his spies, or that he has particular designs which we could not see through and which made him take the liberty to advance an assertion of this nature. Whatever the case, Sir, nothing is more untrue than this so-called loading mentioned by Myd Sandwich and you must express our opinion to Myd Rochford. My letter No 127 will tell you which terms to use when you approach this Minister on this matter. It seems all the more necessary to convey its contents to him because of the false interpretation he gave the parliament, following the well-concerted interpellation of Lord Lyttelton. I rely upon your punctuality, Sir, to forward to us Md. Rochford's reply with reference to the false assertion advanced by Myd Sandwich as well as our determination concerning the communication of our ships with the British Colonies.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 508, 128, LC Photocopy.

17 Feb.

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY]
DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA," ¹

1775

17th [February] The King's pleasure was signified by Lord Rochford that Transports should be provid'd for carrying directly to Boston, the Officers, Recruiting Parties & Recruits belonging to the Regiments of Foot on Service in North America; And Orders were accordingly given the same day.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

18 Feb.BERTHON BROTHERS TO CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN ¹

Lisbon the 18th. February 1775 –

We confirm the foregoing copy of your last, & have now to acquaint you that the bearer of this is Captn. [William; Barron of your Ship *Peggy*, she goes back in ballast, no freight even indifferently good having offered to employ her with – never did we see the place so dead in this way as at present –

Captn Barron is bearer of the vessell's acct. currt. ballanced by Rs. 1249 £ 381, for which we have passed a bill at 30 dys & 66 7/8 d to the order of Mr. Geo: Hayley wh. shall be handed that Gentn. by the first packet that will sail from hence. The said master has the manifest of freight & copy of the bills of

neat charges for your inspection. The useful disbursments amount in all to Rs. 150; & 266 as you will perceive by the acct. current –

Little or no progress is made on the sale of our joint adventure of flour, but we hope that the demand will brisken, & that the price will not lower, from what governs at present which is slow & 200 – Rice wheat & Corn are as the last –

It will give us infinite please to render you any service at this place, & we shall be carefull to address you again, as soon as any thing agreeable can be said about the flour, p. *Peggy*, till then believe us with regard &c.]

Berthon Brothers.

1. Ship Papers, Ship *Peggy*, NHS.

20 Feb.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 20 February 1775

I have learned, My lord, that during the session of the House of Lords where Myd Rochford mentioned the letter from Myd Stormont, the Duke of Richmond said that this letter meant very little, and that one could rely upon *Gallican faith* only in as much as it would be to our advantage to keep our word. In addition, I have learned that Myd Rochford was so good as to agree with this, but went on to say, however, that it would not be to our advantage if the English Colonies cast off the yoke, quoting, in order to support his opinion, the very well written but inaccurate book concerning the history of both Indies. . . .

It is in the best interest of the Ministers not to show to the Americans the least sign of misunderstanding between us and they must be careful to keep up appearances as reality. I therefore confess, My lord, that I could not doubt for one moment their sincere desire to live with us according to the best of terms. Maintenance of peace with the outside world is the only way they can hold on; and with the exception, perhaps, of Lord Sandwich, a man as rapacious as he is capable, who believes he made himself important enough in his department so as not to lose his post should the Government collapse, I do not know any among the present Ministers who would wish war.

Now that we are confident as to the intentions of the Ministry, since their interest as well as that of England is to maintain peace, there remains for us to examine what might be the results of the measures they took to face the situation at home. If these do not complete success, the administration will fall immediately, and the King will be compelled to give in to the circumstances and receive Myd Chatham at the head of the Government. He will come to this position with absolute power. His is the only name still popular in America and he will reconcile all at the moment. Since the rebellion of the Colonies came before his administration and, therefore, could not cast a dark shadow upon it, the former will be easily forgiven. Other projects will strike his genius in order to create a diversion and draw the attention away from the domestic quarrels, gather divided passions, and erase past insults with duties to come. He will find thousands on a war-footing in the Colonies, ten thousand regular troops, a number of ships unused and ready to serve as transports, a fleet considerable for the number of small vessels more suited to privateer, in Europe, a Navy in the best condi-

tion, 17 guard-ships and 8,000 sailors. This is a naked sword in the hands of a madman. We cannot overlook the fact that these are powerful motives that would rouse the ambition of a man ready to sacrifice everything to the glory of the present; and if we consider where he might strike his first blows, we shall see a field open to vast plunder. Our fishermen and the elite of our sailors, would be the victims of the designs of a British squadron and, without any other protection than the good faith of this nation, the trade of our Colonies would become the prey of the British ships. Indeed these matters deserve the attention of the King and His Council.

If the English policy to keep constantly cruising ships in all the seas where they have possessions is not offset by identical measures, it gives them at the onset certain advantages over us that might well destroy the fragile principles of justice, especially those of a Minister who is more famous for the fearlessness of his undertakings than the reckoning of a wise foresight. He would see not without impatience that everything would be ready and that three small boats carrying the necessary orders would be enough to insure the taking of 15,000 sailors and 500 ships, a flourishing Colony even. Indeed, in these conditions, what Colony would be able to resist the forces that will be gathered in America by next summer? If at this time the control of the Government fell into the hands of Lord Chatham, and if six weeks later the troops—of which he himself suggested the recall to parliament, knowing quite well they would not follow his advice—have not received the order to come back, that circumstance alone would be sufficient, in my humble opinion, to take steps to organise our defense and use the wisest and strongest precautions.

Fortunately, as improbable as this speculation may be, I believe, My lord, that I should present to your intelligence all the possible eventualities considering the violent situation prevailing in England now on the eve of a tremor of which the results are most unpredictable. Undoubtedly, nothing would be more contrary to the interests and desire of England in general than starting a war with us, even with great advantages at the onset. But, too often personal motives prevail over the interest of nations and the downfall of this power would not compensate the losses caused by a war we would have to carry in order to bring that destruction about.

1. AMAE, *Correspondance Politique, Angleterre*, vol. 508, 255, LC Photocopy.

M. DE SARTINE, FRENCH NAVAL MINISTER, TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

Paris, 20 February 1775

I offer you all my thanks, Sir, for forwarding to me the dispatch from M. Garnier concerning the secret branch he had the initiative to put back into operation. The additions that he has suggested seem to deserve all our attention. I know how important it is for us to be exactly informed of all English maritime movements; I also think that we could take great advantage of the connections which M. Garnier will have the opportunity to establish at Chatam and in the Office of Ordnance. It seems also greatly desirable that M. Garnier should find a reliable and faithful correspondent at the Admiralty. If we could count on this, it would be the best way to be warned in time of the arrangements made by

the British that could concern France. The expense that would result from this might come to a considerable amount! But the essential interests of the State require, especially in the present circumstances, that we do not lose from sight the projects of our rivals, whatever they may be. I must believe that their Colonies keep them quite busy at the moment, but if, because of some change in the Ministry anticipated by M. Garnier or an agreement with the Americans, they were in the position to use for other purposes the forces which they intend to gather in the American ports, reliable advice, given in time, could upset their projects, at least stand in their way and prevent the occurrence of events which, without these precautions, might become fatal to our Navy and our navigation.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 508, LC Photocopy.

24 Feb.

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & CO.¹

Gentlemen

Bristol 24 feby 1775

My last was 31 Jany Since which I have your favor of 31 Decr The remittance to Messrs Wombwells shall be soon made agreeable to your directions.

I am just return'd from London after having had the pleasure of seeing Mr [Edmund] Burke confirm'd in his Seat by the Committee of Elections. The most unwearied pains has been taken by that Gentleman in defence of America against the violent Measures now carrying on, and in support of the commercial Interests of both Countries, but in vain. All our Petitions have been treated with Contempt, and we have now no Hope left. The Motion of Lord North which I send in the enclosed paper is not calculated at all to conciliate as the Armament is to go out, & all the Boston Bills are to be enforced. In short every thing wears the most melancholy aspect. Many here speak with contempt of the firmness of America, but I can have no idea but that a people who have set out with the Resolution they have and whose Grievances have been so just, will not rather submit to temporary than lasting Evils.

The greatest part of the large Importations of Wheat is already gone off, yet without the least Reason, they have lowered it to 6/9 p Bushel I have sold very little of the *Friendship's* but she is now discharged within a trifle, but there is a good deal of damage between 3 & 400 Bushels. This Wheat is clean and good, but there is this great, & material Objection to it, it is between 2 & 3 Lbs P Bushel lighter than Wheat in general from America. This has kept back the Sale, an[d] I have sold nothing worth mentioning, & might be som[e] reason, had I been induced to it, to have lowered the price, but was none for the heavy wheat, which went off very fast, so that there is hardly any left. And this done after an Agreement. I shall not be in a hurry to sell, but will endeavour if possible to get up the price to 7/. for I am sure it cannot be lower than 6/9 except people will wantonly sport with their goods.

I confirm to you what I wrote you about Wheat, & the Concerns I mentioned I have still a better opinion of this Articles' keeping up, which the large Importations so readily selling confirm. Wheat will most certainly be wanted here. and if the Congress in May should put an immediate Stop to Exportation, as many suspect they will, without waiting till the 10 Sepr there will I suppose be

quantities sent off as soon as possible, but as this cannot I imagine affect the markets so as to raise the price, these Cargoes must turn to great Advantage. Whatever occurs in future I shall advise you of, but with respect to politicks I have not the least Idea, but that the Ministry will attempt to enforce every Act in hopes that America will give way which Lord North's motion was particularly calculated for, thinking that it would divide the Colonies.

I would more enlarge but I am fearful that a Vessel will be sailed as the Wind is become fair, & I could not write sooner, being just returned I am always Gentlemen [&c.]

Rich Champion

1. Morris Papers, HUL.

LETTER FROM LONDON RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK ¹

[Extract]

London Feby 24, 1775. –

Providence seems to have placed me here in Order to give you the earliest Intelligence of the most interesting Affairs, relative to the Colonies.

To my great Astonishment, I have now before me an Act for blocking up the other Colonies; & another called the Black Act, to prevent the Fisheries. – The whole Nation seems to be deeply affected at such an enormous Crime, which is supposed to be done at the Request of the King and his Creatures – God forbid, that you should be intimidated at this iniquitous Law, which is calculated to ruin what was a mutual Benefit to you and us. – This must convince you what you are to expect, if you submit to the most shocking Set of Men that England can produce. You now see their Humanity. Rouse up then with a Just Indignation and exercise your Militia – Watch your Governour and Council. – The New Assembly is to be composed of such Creatures as will give up the Peoples Rights, and join in the most horrid Plot against them. – What a melancholy Reflection, that the Riches and Trade of a great Nation should be abused and turned to the Destruction of themselves and the Colonies! –

In short the King is determined to be as absolute as the French King, and, with the most obstinate Head and bad Heart, has set himself against the People, whom he will not see keeping himself retired from his Subjects in Pride & Ignorance. He has discarded Men of Veracity from all Places of Profit & Honour, and fill'd their offices with a Set of the most abandoned Villains on Earth. These are they who advised him to break his Oath with the People, for which they are dispised by the Nation. If you hold out a few Months, England will rise and do you Justice; as well as relieve themselves from those accursed Tyrants who want to corrupt you and deprive you of both Liberty & Property.

There are two hundred and eight five Members of Parliament, who are all paid with the People's Money to vote whatever [Frederick] Lord North proposes, and he has his Lesson from eighty More, who compose a Club, that meets in the most Private Manner, in the Night; at Mrs Keens near the Palace, where they have a Box which contains the Papers that pass between his Majesty and them The King overlooks their Schemes & corrects them; as well as gives Orders how to proceed for the Future. [Thomas] Hutchinson is consulted, and to the Shame of Governor [Cadwallader] Colden, [John] Pen[n] & [Josiah] Martin who have

written such Letters to Lord Dartmouth, that the King has appointed them to meet at New York, in order to join with your other lying Spirits in betraying the Colonies. – To compleat which Villainy Lord North has made a Motion in Parliament, as if he intended to promote Peace with the Colonies; but it is to deceive them & the people of England too. It is intended to defeat the salutary advice of the Congress, which does Credit to British America.

Set the Press immediately to work, and publish to the World the wicked Designs of the King and his Counsellors; that you despise their lavish schemes, and are determined to preserve your Laws and Religion. –

Encourage the Brave People of Massachusetts Bay to act worthy of their Noble Ancestors!

I have the pleasure to assure you, that the noble Lords with whom I have conversed, all join you in Contempt of the Junto here. – You are desired to let the Colonies know that there is a deep Plot formed to divide them and deceive the People into a Compliance. But tell them that you want not their Trade nor Protection at the Expense of your Liberty. –

You will see, by the Papers, the Treatment Lord Chathams Plan met with. – Those Lords who advised the King to declare you Rebels, and appointed Messrs [John] Hancock, [John] Adams &c.&c. have gone so far as to say that Chatham shall fall a sacrifice to their Designs &c.

I know there is publick Virtue among you. I know your Fondness for England will not let you believe the wicked Designs that are meditating against you; but I do now, in the Presence of God warn you that the King has no good Intentions towards you, but what you oblige him, by your own Wisdom & Virtue to have. – Take Care of yourselves, and act as the Wise & Brave have done in all Ages when oppressed by Tyrants. – Resist unto Blood, all who attempt to betray you. –

The Parliament have registered Colden's & Penn's Letters Look to them, and see for yourselves. – Beleave the Court your worst Enemies. – Be much on your Guard. –

Yesterday Doctor [John] Fothergill and Mr [David] Barclay were so press'd in Spirit, that they went to Lord North and told him that his Bill for prohibiting the Fishery was so horrid and inhumane an Act that the Nation would rise and oppose it: And that if it did pass into a Law, it would be a scandal to Humanity and perhaps occasion a Revolt. – They plead two Hours with him but to no Purpose. –

The Bill is to be read a third Time on Tuesday [February 28]; so that in five Days this horrid Bill passes into a Law without any further Consideration, Oh America! Oh England! –

The Ministry, in Order to quiet the Mob ordered an inflammatory Pamphlet to be burnt at Guild Hall which drew off the People, whilst the Bill passed in Parliament &c.

A Report is sent into the City, that the Transports are stopt. This is to quiet the Merchants. But the Officers are gone down in private Coaches, of other People, and America is to be divided and driven into Compliance, before England is apprized of it. –

Lord North has just given out that he will resign, and at the same Time says that he fears Nothing from the People, unless it be the breaking of his Coach Doors or some such Trifle. – No Resistance of Importance from the City; only a Clamour, which he has often experienced. He expects that this Manoeuvre will quiet the People on both sides of the Water.

Goods are shipped in the Transports with the Officers' Baggage, mark'd *Rex*, and under the Protection of the Kings Troops, who are to Land them, and protect the Trade, &c. –

North Carolina is to be a store House, it is said, – Support the Committee, & watch the Officers of the Customs &c. Your Friends are afraid that you will be surprized into Compliance. – The offers of Peace were only to raise the stocks which had fallen. – They are now four pts higher on Account of the Report. The Council sat up all Night, in Order to find out Ways and Means to conquer Virginia, & procure Tobacco. Great offers will be made to those who will raise it &c.

Men of large Fortunes are afraid to oppose Government, least the Bank should fail, which is said to be in Danger.

The Interest of the Year 1774 is not paid.

Many of the People are your most hearty Friends but the King's your greatest Enemy. Be not deceived by his Low Cunning; act wisely, and the wicked Plot will break on the Heads of those who want to destroy you.

The King is his own Secretary; he gets up at 6 oClock every Morning, sends off his Box with Remarks on a Bit of Paper tied round each Order. four of the ablest Lawyers are constantly with him, whose Business it is to advise & search for Precedents to screen his Head, and throw the Blame on the Parliament.

Two Millions have been squandered in Bribery and Corruption. the Crown has nothing to fear but the Hunger of the Poor.

A steady Adherence to the Proceedings of the Congress will save England and America.

Beware of Governor Penn, who has had offers made him to comply with the Designs of the Court. –

Send this to Boston immediately,² Mr Hancocks Lands are already divided among the Officers. –

Lord Dartmouth is your bitter Enemy, and determined to destroy the Liberties of America.

All the Wise wish that you may attend to the Advice of the Congress.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 45–48.

2. This letter, with a subsequent one of March 1, 1775, was received in New York on April 19, and copies were dispatched immediately to the Massachusetts Provincial Congress at Watertown. See New York, April 19, American Theater.

THOMAS & ROWLAND HUNT TO ROBERT CARTER ¹

Sir

London 24th Feby 1775

Since we wrote you of 18th June last p *Trident*, Mitchell enclosing a Blank Power of Attorney for yourself & Mr Lowndes to execute & return us, we have reced yr Letter of 21st July & observe the contents.

New-York, May 8, 1775.

Extract of a Letter From Philadelphia,

To a Gentleman in this City, dated the 6th inst.

YESTERDAY evening Dr. FRANKLIN arrived here from London in six weeks, which he left the 20th of March; which has given great joy to this town; he says we have no favours to expect from the Ministry; nothing but submission will satisfy them, they expect little or no opposition will be made to their troops; those that are now coming are for *New-York*, where it is expected they will be received with cordiality. As near as we can learn there are about four thousand troops coming in this fleet, the men of war and transports are in a great measure loaded with dry goods, to supply *New-York*, and the country round it, agents are coming over with them. Dr. *Franklin* is highly pleased to find us arming and preparing for the worst events, he thinks nothing else can save us from the most abject slavery and destruction, at the same time encourages us to believe a spirited opposition, will be the means of our salvation. The Ministry are alarmed at every opposition; and lifted up again at every thing which appears the least in their favour. every letter and every paper from hence, are read by them.

NEW-YORK:

Printed by JOHN ANDERSON, at Beckman's Slip.

We find that the £1000 Bank Stock left to Benjn Benson stands in the names of Robt Carter, Christr Lownds & Ann Ogle, for which reason a Power from them must be had for the purposes of receiving the Dividends already due thereon (of wch the Warrants for above 2 Years remain unreceived) & transferring the Stock into his name

Last Summer he was attacked by an Illness which became very dangerous but he at length recover'd of it & in the Month of October when Mr Jas Anderson was about to embark for Maryland, by way of New York, he determined to accompany him. In consequence thereof we paid the expences of his fitting out with Cloaths &c his Passage & Cash for travelling Expences from New York & gave him the Account which amounted to £214.15.5 (including your charge against him) –

The first Accot sent you was 3rd May 1773 being –
the next was 18 June 1774 –

70	.14	. 7
103	.19	. 6.
<hr/>		
£389	.9	. 6.

These Accots we deliver'd to Mr Benjn Benson before he left London to shew how his Accot stood with us but you will observe that thro' the whole transaction we have charged neither Commission nor Interest of Money altho' we shall at least expect the latter on his last Accot & then we are not at all benefited for having had him under our care –

It appears rather singular that since you put under our Care a young Gentleman, your Consignments of Tobacco have been discontinued to us, which we apprehend must be owing to your removal from Williamsburg to Nominy hall on Potowmack River, where our Captain has not had opportunity to wait on you for yr Commands. We suppose that if you intended us any Tobacco, you wd have prevailed on Messrs Hyndman & Co's Captain to take it on bd his Ship, as you have repeatedly done heretofore, & such a request, if denied, you wd in course advise us of, that we might take such measures as to prevent your being disappointed a second time from him –

We had the misfortune, to lose our Ship *Martin* coming from Virginia the 31st Decr last on the coast of Wales near to Millford Haven together with all the Cargo (except about 6 hhds in quantity) & Captain & 9 Men occasion'd by the Ship getting into the Bristol Channel instead of the English Channel. This unhappy accident & the present alarming situation of America, prevent our chartering a full Ship, we have therefore agreed with Capta Outram of the Ship *Liberty*, who loads in York River, to take 200 hhds Tobacco for us, & we shall give him directions to wait on you on our behalf. He will sail the beginning of next Month for Virginia in Ballast –

You will please to remember that it is incumbent on you to forward us proper Powers to enable us to reimburse ourselves, as what we have expended for Benjn Benson at present stands to your Debet – We hope he is by this time arrived in Maryland & that he will pursue some employment forthwith, having lost already too much time in doing nothing & it being out of our power by persuasion to prevail on him when here to settle in some way of Business –

We remain at all times Sir [&c.]

Tho^s & Rowl^d Hunt.

[P.S.] The Power B Benson has left here for accepting Stock, & receiving Dividends will be sufficient, after it is transferred into his name, but at present it is irregular, owing to that having not been yet done. —

[Endorsed] Leter dated 24th febr'y 1775—Received the 5th May 1775—

1. Robert Carter Papers, 1772–85, VHS.

EMANUEL MATHIAS, BRITISH RESIDENT TO HAMBURG, TO LORD SUFFOLK ¹

[Extract]

No 8

Hamburgh, Friday, 24th Febr'y 1775.

My Lord, Last Tuesday I had the Honor to transmit to Your Lordship a Copy of the Memorial, which from the Motive I alledged in my Dispatch No. 7, I thought proper to present to a Deputation of the Senate on the 17th Instant; And I have now the Pleasure of inclosing to You, My Lord, the Extract of Their Register, with which, in Answer thereunto, Syndick Sillem and Senator Dörner were again deputed to me Today, and which contains almost *ipsissimis verbis* what They were directed, They said, to signify to me orally in the Name of Their Superiors, Vizt

“That immediately upon my Memorial being read in a full Senate, They had ordered the Deputies of the Commerce to convoke the Body of Merchants, and to notify to Them, for Their obedient Compliance the serious and earnest Prohibition The Senate had just passed, to carry on any Contreband Trade whatever with or to the British American Colonies.” The Deputies added, “That, were even these Measures, tho’ calculated for debarring their Trading Inhabitants from such illegal Practices, to be deemed much too insufficient by His Majesty’s Government they should be enforced by an Edict to be immediately published and affixed for that Purpose;” — And They took this Opportunity to desire me, that I would interpose my good Offices, as well in renewing the most respectful Assurances of the anxious Zeal and unlimited Devotion, which both the Senate and their City entertained for The King and His Government, as in conveying to His Majesty Their most ardent Wishes, that the Seeds of Discord and Opposition, scattered between the Mother and filiale-Countries, may soon be stifled or eradicated, and Great Britain hereafter enjoy a most perfect Tranquility and Happiness to the remotest of all Ages.

1. PRO, State Papers 82/94.

26 Feb. (Sunday)

“ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA” ¹

26th. [February] The Kings pleasure was also signified by his Lordships ² that Transports should be provided for carrying from Ireland to Boston the 22d. 40th. 44th & 45th. Regiments of Foot; And Orders were accordingly-given the next day.

N.B.

These regiments were afterwards order’d to New-York.

1st. March

Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves was directed to purchase another Schooner to supply the place of the *St. Lawrence* found unfit for Service.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

2. Lord Rochford, Under Secretary of State.

27 Feb.CAPTAIN TEMPLE LUTTRELL IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ¹

[Extract]

Feb. 27, 1775

According to the horological predictions of a most enlightened state soothsayer, we have about seven years more of profound tranquillity with the House of Bourbon to trust to; but, from the symptoms of our domestic distraction, and the improved state of the government and finances of our neighbours, I should judge it prudent to be somewhat better provided than we are at present for an early rupture; not entirely to dismantle our ports and our coasts of soldiers and seamen, sent to immolate the martyrs to liberty of their own flesh and blood, on the distant continent of America.

It has been made evident to you, that a defection of the northern colonies will soon bring on the complete ruin of your West India settlements, which cannot elsewhere affordably provide themselves with cattle, lumber, and divers other articles requisite for the support of a plantation.

. . . Whatsoever share of indulgence and independency Great Britain shall, in this her florid and athletic stage, generously bestow on her rising colonies, they will, no doubt, amply repay to her in some future generation. . . .

1. *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 346, 347.CIRCULAR LETTER OF JAMES RUSSELL, A LONDON MERCHANT, TO HIS
CORRESPONDENTS IN MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA ¹

Sir,

London, February, 1775

It is with the greatest Concern I find myself under the Necessity of informing you, that the present alarming State of Affairs will no longer justify my entertaining Hopes that our Trade will be restored to its former Situation, by the Requisitions of the Continental Congress being duly attended to and complied with in this Session of Parliament; the Association must, consequently, be strictly adhered to. In Compliance therefore with the first Resolution thereof, and circumstanced as we now are by the violent Resolutions of Government, I have laid aside all Thoughts of being able this Spring to execute the conditional Orders for Goods, sent me by many of my Friends last Fall.

Under the Faith of the Fourth Resolution of the Association, I have ventured to send my Ships out in Ballast, in Confidence, that by the favour of my steady Friends, they will return loaded with Tobacco, consigned to me as usual; and I have strictly enjoined all the Masters of Ships in my Service, to pay due regard to the Sixth Resolution of the Association, on Pain of forfeiting all future Employment by me.

The tender Regard paid to the Interests of the Merchants of this Country, by the Continuation of Exports from America for a limited Time, after our Friends there have precluded themselves the Benefits and Conveniencies of all Imports from hence, is an Instance of Favour to them, for which they will not be ungrateful; and I take this Opportunity of acknowledging the due Sence I have of the particular Advantages that will result to me from the Justice of this Resolution; the Wisdom of it is highly extolled by all the Friends of America, because it puts it in their Power to refute the Calumnies of such as have insinuated, that Intentions were formed by some of withholding the Debts due from the Colonies to Great Britain.

Impressed with the deepest Anxiety for the grievous Distress with which not only the Colonies, but these Kingdoms, are threatened, the Merchants of this City have not upon this Occasion been wanting in Duty to their Country, their Friends, themselves, and Posterity, by using every justifiable Means in their Power, to prevent the Calamities with which all are threatened; and if they have hitherto been unsuccessful, they are not discouraged, but will continue to take every Opportunity that may offer of using their utmost Endeavours to obtain Relief for their Fellow-Subjects in America, and to establish Concord and a permanent and cordial Reconciliation between Great Britain and her Colonies, upon which the future Prosperity of both ultimately depend; and they have Reason to hope that these great Objects are still to be attained.

I flatter myself, that notwithstanding all the Insinuations of the Malevolent or Interested, a Doubt has not been entertained by any of my Friends, of my Readiness to concur in every Measure that shall appear expedient to the general Body of Merchants and Traders, to be taken in Favour of America: a Moment's Reflection must carry Conviction with it to every disinterested Person, that the Prosperity of America is evidently so intimately connected with my own Interest, that a Suspicion cannot remain, that I could recommend or adopt Measures destructive in their Consequences to my best Friends, and ruinous to myself. I also flatter myself, that the same Spirit of Unanimity with which the whole Trade here are disposed to adopt every Measure tending to the general Good, will be communicated to their respective Friends with you; and that however fashionable it may have been to depreciate the Reputation of one, with a View to exalt the Credit and promote the Interest of another, that such illiberal Practices will henceforth be exploded, and all Animosities cease; this, at least, is my earnest Wish; Calumny and Detraction have never had my Sanction; and I trust, that my Business, which has so long been established upon a better Foundation, does not now require the Aid of so weak a Support. I acknowledge that I have always been willing to promote a laudable Spirit of Emulation in the Trade, in Hopes that the obvious Benefits resulting to my Correspondents from such a Conduct, would be attended with good Consequences to my own Interest.

It has been suggested to me, by some my Wellwishers, that they were not without Apprehensions that it would be dangerous to put any of their Property in the Power of Government, by shipping it to Great Britain during the Existence

of the present Troubles; I therefore think it incumbent upon me, before I solicit the Favour of their Consignments, to undertake, which I hereby do, to indemnify all my Friends from any Risk they may apprehend their Effects consigned to me will be liable to after their Arrival here. Upon Application to Mr. Charles Grahame, Merchant, at Lower Marlborough; Mr. John Dorsey, Merchant, at Elkridge; or Philip Richard Fendall, Esq; at Port Tobacco, who have the Direction of loading my Ships, the fullest Satisfaction may be had that I have Property sufficient in the Country to warrant this Engagement, and guaranty all my Transactions.

The Assurances I have received from many of my Correspondents, who now owe me Balances, that no public Dissensions will influence them to forget their Duty to Individuals, give me Reason to expect that they will, upon this Occasion, exert themselves to make me all the Remittances in their Power, by the Return of the Ships. I do not wish to draw more of my Property out of the Province, than will discharge every just Demand that can be made upon me here; and that I have not the least Doubt of being enabled to compleat. And should public Affairs continue to exhibit the melancholy Prospect of a total Stagnation of Trade, and consequently deprive us of the Means of promoting and continuing our Friendship and Correspondence for any Length of Time, I have no longer any Incitement to reside here, and I doubt not but many of my Friends will be glad to see me in the worst of Times. The Produce of the real Property I have in the Country, will enable me to spend the last Stage of a Life amongst them, which has been so long dedicated to promoting a mutually beneficial commercial Intercourse with the Tobacco Colonies.

It is impossible to say what Prices Tobacco may command at this Market next Fall: that will greatly depend upon the Prospect we may have of a Continuation of a Supply from the Colonies, and in some Measure upon the Steps that are likely to be taken here in American Affairs, in the next Session of Parliament; and it is yet to be hoped, that they will be favourable to the Restoration of our Trade, because by that Time our Rulers must feel that this Country has every Thing to lose, and no Advantage to hope for, by this unnatural Contest with their own Subjects. This is certain, that the Sellers will struggle to maintain inflexibly the present high Prices, and take every Advantage of the State of the Market, and of the Apprehensions of the Buyers that the Means of Supply will be cut off, to advance them still higher.

I beg Leave to recommend it to you, to get your Tobacco ready as early as possible, that you may run no Risk of being disappointed in getting it shipped off before the Period fixed for the Termination of Exports.

The Favour of your Assistance to dispatch my Ships, will be doubly esteemed as an Obligation this Year; and you may rest assured of my Fidelity, and that I shall consider your Interest as my own, in the Disposal of whatever you are pleased to commit to my Care at this critical Juncture.

I am respectfully, Sir [&c.]

James Russell

1 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL
SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

By &c.

Capt [John] *Collins* Commander of His Majestys Sloop *Nautilus* (by whom you will receive this) being directed to put himself under your command & follow your Orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required and directed to take him and the said Sloop under your command accordingly & employ them in such manner as you shall find best for his Majestys Service entrusted to your Care. Given &c. 1st March 1775

By &c. P.S.

Sandwich

Capt [William] *Burnaby* – *Merlin*
[Matthew] *Squire* – *Otter*

J Buller
Lisburne

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 283, NYHS Transcript.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL
GRAVES ¹

By &c

Whereas His Majestys Schooner the *St Lawrence* has been found unfit for further Service, And Whereas we think fit, that another Schooner shall be purchased to supply her Place, You are hereby required & directed to purchase another Schooner accordingly upon the best & cheapest terms you can for His Majesty and to draw upon the Navy Board for the expence thereof.

You are to cause the Schooner so purchased to be fitted, Armed, Mann'd Victualled & Stored, and put, in every respect upon the same Establishment as His Majestys Schooners under your command; calling her by the name of the *St Lawrence*, and employing her in such manner as you shall judge best for His Majestys Service entrusted to your care. Given &c 1st March 1775

By &c. P. S.

Sandwich

By the *Nautilus*.

J Buller
Lisburne

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 284, NYHS Transcript.

LETTER FROM LONDON RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK ¹

[Extract]

[London] March 1, 1775

Part of the Troops now Orderd for Embarkation here and Ireland, are to rendezvous at New York, to make it a Place of Arms securing the Defection of that Province from the general Alliance in the Cause of Freedom, and every Thing that is dear to Man: and to prevent the Communication between Virginia, Maryland, and the other Southern Colonies, with New England, when General [Thomas] Gage with such Assistance as he may get from New York, is to subdue those Colonies by a Garrison and Place of Arms, with the Assistance of Quebeck to rule with a Rod of Iron all the Slaves of America.

Without the Concurrence of new York, this Scheme can never be carried into Execution, of which every Gentleman and Man of Knowledge in the King-

dom is fully convinced therefore on your Virtue, in a great Measure, it depends whether America shall be free, or be reduced to the most abject and oppressive Servitude; worse than that of Egyptian Bondage; in which you must inevitably be involved, if you lend your Aid to enslave your Brethern in the other Colonies.

I have to inform you that the Bill for preventing the four Colonies and Provinces of New England from Fishing, getting any Provisions from the other Colonies, carrying on any Commerce whatsoever to any Part of the World, except to Great Britain, Ireland or the British West Indies will finally pass the House of Commons to morrow, and is to take place the first of next July. — You may also depend that in a few Days another Bill will be brought in to prohibit any of the other Colonies from carrying on any Trade whatever with each other, or to any other part of the World, except to Great Britain, Ireland, or the British West Indies, which will probably take place in July also: therefore you will act accordingly, and let this be publickly known.²—

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 48, 49.

2. This letter (and another of the same date) was copied and forwarded to the Provincial Congress at Watertown. See also London, February 24, 1775.

LETTER FROM LONDON RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK ¹

[Extract]

London March 1st 1775

The Measures of the Ministry will I hope, do more towards uniting the Colonies, than any Efforts of America itself; You will easily perceive their wicked Intentions to divide as well as their Designs after that hoped for Division, They have high hopes of Success from the last Accounts from New York. I trust the People of that Province will soon displace those rascally and treacherous Tories in your Assembly, who dare thus negatively encourage the System of Despotism now adopted for your Government. — The Wisdom of the Congress, and the Firmness of the People, give the strongest Assurances of future Conduct. — Several Names are made use of here as Authorities to warrant the Defection of all America. Pray print this short hint for the Observation of the Honest Men among you. I need not endeavour to expose the Baseness or Folly of the present Men in Office, for they Take care to do it themselves.²

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 49, 50. See the previous letter of March 1, 1775.

2. To the above letter, the New York Committee Deputy Chairman, Henry Remsen, appended this note: "The foregoing were at first intended only to be communicated to the Inhabitants of Massachusetts Bay, But on more Consideration it was judg'd best to inform those of Connecticut also, leaving them to forward the Accot to Concord with the utmost Despatch."

WILLIAM LEE TO FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE ¹

[Extract]

London, 1 March, 1775

The inclosed paper will give you a true Idea of Lord North's motion, that is, what he meant by it. Last night we were heard and produced evidence at the Bar of the House of Commons against the Fish Bill as 'tis called, of which you have a copy. Our evidence has embarassed the Minister, but still I think the Bill will pass which will embarrass him still more in this Country. Ld North's resolu-

tion² was reported to the House from the Committee last Monday, and passed after long debates. Its fallacy is now well understood here, and instead of serving his purpose, has made him weaker, as I always expected it would. The War preparations are still carrying on against America. The troops are designed to embark from Ireland in all this month but they will hardly get to Boston or New York before the Middle or the latter end of May. You must take care of yourselves. By all means preserve union among the Colonies and you will be safe. The Packet which arrived yesterday has destroyed in great measure the ministers' hopes of seducing New York, for tho' the Assembly would not confirm the proceedings of the Congress, the Committee unanimously resolved to adhere to the association. You must exert yourself for me this year as we shall have nothing to do the next.

1. Ford, ed., *Lee*, I, 137, 138.

2. This was what was known as Lord North's conciliatory measure. It read: "that when the General Council and Assembly, or General Court of any of his Majesty's provinces, or colonies in America, shall propose to make provision, according to the condition, circumstance, or situation of such province or colony, for contributing their proportion to the common defence (such proportion to be raised under the authority of the General Court, or General Assembly of such province or colony, and disposable by Parliament) and shall engage to make provision also, for the support of the civil government, and the administration of justice in such province or colony, it will be proper, if such proposal shall be approved by his Majesty, and the two Houses of Parliament, and for so long as such provision shall be made accordingly, to forbear in respect of such province or colony, to lay any duty, tax, or assessment, or to impose any further duty, tax or assessment, except only such duties as it may be expedient to continue to levy or impose, for the regulation of commerce; the net produce or the duties last mentioned to be carried to the account of such province or colony respectively." The motion was sent to the Colonial Governors in a circular letter from Lord Dartmouth, March 3, 1775.

2 Mar.

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA"¹

1775

2d. [March] The Kings pleasure was signified by the Earl of Dartmouth for a Frigate to be provided to carry the Major Generals [William] Howe [John] Burgoyne & [Henry] Clinton to Boston. And The *Cerberus* was accordingly ordered.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

By &c.

Captain [James] Chads Commander of His Majts. Ship the *Cerberus* by whom you will receive this being directed to proceed to Boston with the Major General's [William] Howe, [John] Burgoyne, & [Henry] Clinton and to return immediately afterwards to Spithead with any Dispatches you or Genl. [Thomas] Gage may have to send, You are hereby required and directed to hasten the said Captain's return in the *Cerberus* to Spithead with such Dispatches as you

and the said General may have to send home accordingly. Given &c. the 2d. March 1775.

By &c P.S.

Sandwich
J. Buller
C. Spencer

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 286, NYHS Transcript.

LORD GRANTHAM, BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN, TO LORD ROCHFORD ¹

[Extract]

Madrid 2d March 1775.

As I was, two Days ago, with M. Grimaldi upon some Business, relating to a new Duty on Rum exacted at Cadiz, I took Occasion to repeat what I had before said to him, on the Subject of searching and seizing such Vessels, as should be carrying on an illicit Trade to North America, and I had the Satisfaction, not only to find him in the same Sentiments which he had professed before, on my first Communication of this Business to him, but even, that he went further by assuring me, that M. Arriaga had Orders to send circular Notice to all the Ports in America, to prevent the Temptations which Masters of Vessels might find themselves under at this Juncture, and that if they did, notwithstanding the Notice given, attempt such Practices, so far from finding any Support from hence, they should be left to their Fate, & the Sentences due to them. As for Ships belonging to His Catholick Majesty, those he answered for, that they should engage in no such illegal Attempts. A more perfect Agreement & Acquiescence to the necessary Steps taken by our Court could not, I think, be obtained.

1. PRO, State Papers 94/197.

3 Mar.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir,

[Admiralty Office] 3d March 1775.

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having received Advice that Insurance has been made on the Ship *Prosperity*,—French, Master, bound from Dunkirk to North America (with liberty to touch at St Eustatia) having on board a quantity of Tea intended, as supposed, to be run into some of His Majesty's Colonies there; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith, that you may cause a proper look out to be kept for her.

I am &ca.

Php Stephens.

Vice Adml Graves, at Boston. — By the first of the following Sloops which sail
Vizt *Nautilus*, *Merlin*, *Otter*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, NYHS Transcript.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Extract]

[Admiralty Office] 3d March 1775

Sir I have received and communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of the 8th of January last, enclosing Copies of the Letters you had received from Governor [John] Wentworth relative to the riotous pro-

ceedings in New Hampshire, and giving an account of the steps you had taken thereupon, as also of your proceedings up to the date of your Letter; and in return I am to acquaint you that their Lordships very well approve thereof.

I have also received and communicated to their Lordships your Letter of the 15h of January enclosing Copies of the Sentences of the Courts Martial which had been held upon Captain [William] Maltby, and James Bignel Gunner, of the *Glasgow*, and acquainting their Lordships with the advices you had received from Captain [Andrew] Barkley and Lieutenant [Henry] Mouat [Mowat] of the accident which had happened to the *Canceaux* by the ignorance of the Pilot.

Their Lordships approve of your having landed the Supernumerary Marines belonging to the Ships under your Command upon the requisition of General [Thomas] Gage, and of your having discharged them from the Ships Books, it corresponding exactly with their Lordships directions to you of the 28th of January, of which you will receive a Duplicate by this Conveyance.

Their Lordships being apprehensive that the Contractors for Victualling His Majesty's Ships in North America may meet with difficulties in furnishing them with Provisions in some of the Colonies on account of the present Disturbances, have directed the Victualling Board to send out to you upon Freight 4 Months Provisions of all species for 4275 Men, that you may, as you shall see occasion, be enabled to send supplies to such of the Ships under your Command as may stand in need thereof.

The *St Lawrence* Schooner being condemned as unfit for further Service, you will receive, by this conveyance their Lordships Order to purchase another to supply her place.

The Transports appointed to carry the Marines to Boston are now falling down the River. The *Nautilus*, *Merlin* and *Otter* Sloop (by one of which you will receive this Letter): are nearly ready and will probably sail in the Course of next Week to join you. The *Scorpion* will soon follow them; as will also the *Hunter* as soon as she can be got ready.

I am &c

P: S:

(By the *Nautilus*) Vide Sir James Douglas's Letter 5h March 1775 Duplicate sent the 6h April – (By the *Senegal*)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 284, NYHS Transcript.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

My Lord,

London, 3 March 1775

I have the honor to inform you at the request of Mylord Rochford that, as a result of the protests I made in your name to this Minister, the Court of London deeming this matter important enough to take new precautions, has sent with dispatch to its sea officers on duty in America the most positive orders to use the greatest care in avoiding to give us the smallest ground for complaint.

I believe it is my duty to forward to you also the most positive assurance I have received since then from Mylord Sandwich and Mylord Suffolk in this matter. Both have confirmed to me in the strongest terms that all the orders we

might have wished for have just been given not to interfere with the navigation of our ships under any pretence. In brief, all the ministers have assured me that they were perfectly at ease at present and that we certainly would not have any reason to complain.

It is not possible, My lord, to carry guarantees any further and give them a more sincere and persuasive accent. Indeed, I confess that I have not the slightest doubt that we can rely absolutely upon them. I made the remark to Mylord Suffolk that our foresight in this respect is a convincing proof of our good intentions and our endeavour to avoid as much as it is within our power any ground for dispute between us. This minister answered me that he had interpreted our request only in this sense and that he was obliged to us. It was agreed that we would have behaved quite differently if it had been our intention to take advantage of our neighbours' embarrassing situation.

Indeed, My lord, you will have rendered an essential service to both Nations by this act of caution at a time when one could not give too much attention in holding back officers whose ideas lean naturally toward war and booty and would become inflamed by reason of the operations of which they will have charge. The only reproach these ministers might incur is that they waited to take these measures, as important to them as they are to us, until we brought the need to their attention. But in their position, it is difficult to think of everything; and their intentions are so peaceful that it never came to their minds to suspect those of their subordinates.

I had one more order from you to carry, My lord: that one consisting in the denial of the assertion relative to so-called French ships being loaded at Fort l'Orient for the English Colonies. I asked Mylord Sandwich yesterday if he had presented this assertion to the House of Lords. He admitted so. Whereupon I explained to him the nature of my orders; that I believed I should warn him in complete honesty that I could not exempt myself from carrying them out. He told me that he had received this reliable information from l'Orient and from Bordeaux and that it had been confirmed to him by the London underwriters; that, anyway, it was a speculation on the part of our merchants occupied in smuggling and not a State affair. I answered that we did not consider either this matter as such; and that, since no question on this matter had been put to us, we wished to express our conviction out of pure friendship that he most certainly had been poorly informed. Today, I also spoke of this to Lord Suffolk who attaches no importance to this affair. He told me that you had said in jest to their Ambassador that Mylord Sandwich was not well informed by his spies.

Mylord Suffolk assured me also at the meeting we had yesterday that Mr Shuldham, former Governor of Newfoundland, had deemed equitable the statement of losses by our fishermen, such as I presented it and that this affair would be settled *at any moment to my satisfaction and according to my desire*. At the point where we stand now, I was to expect the fairness of this procedure, the only one that could be consistent with the manner in which they recognised and confessed on their own the misbehavior on the part of a few of their fishermen. I took this opportunity to mention the essential point concerning a new agreement on the distribution of the coastline where we fish. I presented the same arguments as those I reported in my letter of 1 July of last year, No. 206. Since they had

been approved then, and since this letter describes in detail the aspects of the problem concerning fishing in Newfoundland, I beg you, Mylord, to have it presented to you again. It might influence you to give me more specific instructions in this regard. Mylord Suffolk advised me that he did not think it was impossible to come to a certain agreement before the new Governor, who has just been appointed, leaves for Newfoundland; however, the tremendous amount of work at the Ministry would prevent it at this very moment. One of Lord North's friends took the initiative to relate to him my observations on the eleventh paragraph of his Bill. I am told that he listened with the greatest attention. We will soon see the results. After what I have heard, especially the explanations given by the Committee of the City Merchants at the House of Commons, I am inclined to believe that the fishing interdiction concerning the New Englanders will not go into effect this year yet. These explanations seemed to be interesting enough that I should bring them to your attention. I enclose a translation in this letter.

The province of New York answered the Government's expectations. You will see, My lord, the speech delivered by the Governor of this province at the opening of the Assembly. A member having suggested to consider before anything else the resolutions of the general Congress, this motion was rejected by the majority of one voice only. I took the liberty to tell Mylord Suffolk that this one voice was worth one million in pounds Sterling. The Assembly, therefore, decided to search for other ways by which to redress its grievances. It further decided unanimously to present a petition to His British Majesty, a memorandum to the House of Lords and a remonstrance to the House of Commons. The contents of these documents, which have not arrived yet, will show the ministers how far they can depend on the intentions of this Colony which occupies a very advantageous position in as much as it forms a vital link in the line of communications between New England, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. However, since several Committees assembled in various parts of the Province have agreed to conform exactly to the resolutions of the Congress jointly with the other ten Colonies belonging to it, the Government will send four regiments to the Province of New York in order to protect and encourage those who display their good intentions and have themselves asked for troops.

Since I had not received the authorization to request the orders sent recently to the Commodore of the English Squadron concerning our ships, I refrained from doing it of my own initiative. Furthermore, I confess I deem them to be so favorable that the ministers might fear to expose themselves to an accusation of timidity by showing them to us in their entirety.

I am, respectfully, &c.

Garnier

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 259, LC Photocopy.

LEWIS DE VISME, BRITISH ENVOY TO SWEDEN, TO LORD SUFFOLK ¹

[Extract]

Stockholm 3d March 1775

I had the Honor of Your Lordships Letter of the 7th February, and I lost no time in acquainting Count Scheffer with the Instructions given to the Commanders of His Majestys Ships and Vessels on the North-American Station. He said that

the precautions were just and wise, and that, I might depend upon it, no Swedish Vessels would be found in those Seas; but I observed, that though the Swedes should not trade on their own account, they might possibly receive freights from others. In order therefore the better to secure their Shipping and Effects from accidents, I have circulated this advice among the principal Merchants of the Capital, and of Gothenburg.

1. PRO, State Papers 95/125.

4 Mar.

LORD ROCHFORD TO M. GARNIER ¹

Milord Rochford presents his compliments to Monsieur Garnier and has the honor to inform him that Milord Stormont is authorised to pay to the person designated by the Count of Vergennes the forty three thousand five hundred and sixty pounds in French money, the entire amount for the damages which the French fishermen claimed to have suffered in Newfoundland in the year 1772.

Milord Rochford is convinced that the promptitude with which the King His Master has rendered justice for the subjects of France in this occasion will be considered as a new proof of His constant desire to strenghten the good relations between the two courts.

At Saint James, this fourth of March 1775.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, LC Photocopy.

6 Mar.

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co.¹

Gentlemen

Bristol 6 March 1775

My Last was 24 Ulto Since I have none of your favours. The News from New York, since strengthend by the Testimony of the Quakers in your Province, leave no doubt with most people (of which I confess myself to be one of the number) of the Submission of all America to the present System of Government in this Kingdom. It is a pity, that these Circumstances had not been duly considered, before the Americans determined upon meeting in Congress, the resolutions of which by being broke through, only confirms the opinion already adopted, of the weakness of the American Counsels. I am still of the same opinion, whatever may be the Event, that these Laws of Taxation were impolitick and illegal, that they are subversive of the constitutional Liberty of the Subject, and will in the end be destructive of the present Constitution. And I am still further of opinion, that had the Colonies been united in a firm compact to resist these Laws, it was not in the power of the Mother Country to have compelled her.

It is a fact that since America has been in a State of Resistance, great Confusion has reigned in the Councils of the Ministry. When the violent and oppressive Acts passed against Boston last May, the Ministry placed the strongest dependance upon the other Colonies not supporting her, and when he found that they had determined upon a Congress, he laughed at it & looked upon an Union as a thing absurd and impossible. In this Situation the new Parliament met, when the Kings Speech was couched in warm terms against America. But no

sooner was the resolution of the Congress known, & the union with which their determination was made, than the Minister was really frighten'd, & expressed himself to that purpose in the House before the Adjournment. However there being a little time to breathe before the parliament met, the most violent of the Ministry declared themselves openly against America the danger being distant. Again the News from Virginia threw them into Confusion, & produced a delusive but apparently conciliatory motion from the Minister, but with such a variety of Opinion in his Coleagues or his Superiours, that they had nearly quarrell'd. Now the News from [New] York has raised their Spirits, & they talk of a Bill to shut up the Ports of Virginia & Carolina. The Act to restrain the Fisheries, or in other words to starve the four New England Provinces still goes on. But if there is any wisdom in the Ministry they will now as some Provinces have acceded, & the others must, adopt moderate Measures, in order to produce some degree of reconciliation and fix their revenue System on a settled basis.

The Advocates for America of which there are able ones in the House, tho' few in number, receive now in a pretty extensive degree, the Epithets of factious, and *rediculous*. To suppose there was Virtue enough left in America to produce any firmness, they are stiled rediculous and for the Resistance which America has made, they are stiled factious as having caused it. Our Representative Mr [Edmund] Burke has indeed exerted himself in the Cause of the Colonies with a warmth, which becomes the dignity of his publick, & the honesty of his private Character, and however wanting any of the Americans may have been in support of their own Cause, Every Man who appeared in their defence here, was supporting in their persons the Liberties of the whole Empire, which cannot be constitutionally taxed without the Consent of the people or their Representatives, & if a Revenue is found in America, will only be used to strengthen the enormous power of the Crown by adding to the List Placemen and Pensioners. As for us poor Traders who have dared to express our Sentiments in favour of the Colonies, we have the Comfort not only of being called factious, but also of being called fools for our Interference with a Business, which did not belong to us, for that the Business of a Merchant is his Interest only, which he ought to prefer to every other Consideration, & which we were by our Encouragement to America evidently injuring by an Interruption of our Commerce. Indeed I am convinced, that Interest is the Soul of Traders in general, & that this will put an end to the resistance of America upon publick and vertuous principles. However I shall ever be happy to have an Opportunity of saying that a House in Philadelphia, the greatest perhaps in Europe led the way, by an entire sacrifice of its private Interest, to the publick Advantage, and founded an Opposition which had it been strictly adhered to would have saved Posterity from the miseries of an arbitrary Government, which this Nation is hastening to assure and for which the Introduction of a Revenue System in America, will prove a certain ground work.

I have not made much progress in the Sale of the *Friendship's* Cargo of Wheat. It is clean and good white Wheat, but this quality if not so much liked here being light, & not producing the quantity of Flour. Indeed our Consumption in this part of the Country is almost wholly of red Wheat, as they are much heavier and produce more flour. So that these sorts of Wheat will have the

preference. However I do as others do here engage the weight to be 60 pounds P Bushel & will not go under 6/9 P Bushel. I have no doubt of finishing the sale at that price only I must wait a little patiently Some of the *Black princes* Cargo² have been sold at 6/7½ warranted Colds P Bushel which somewhat affected the market However I shall not lower I am determined if there is the least possibility of supporting the price, which I am sure may be done with great Ease, for there was no manner of occasion for lowering the price from 7/ as the demand would have been the same. As a proof of it, of the great Quantity imported the greatest part is sold by far, notwithstanding the floods & bad weather which impeded the Country Navigation. The Weather is extremely bad, & there is no doubt of the Corn's being greatly injured, & indeed every prospect of a middling Harvest, so that this Country must be in want of grain. I have given you my sentiments fully on that Article, which I confirm with respect to want of it here. Had not the Supplies we have had, arrived, Wheat must have been 12/p Bushel at the least. With respect to Export in future you will know best, but by the appearances of things I suppose it will now be open. The Manufacturers are fuller of work then Naught could have thought especially at Norwich Manchester & in Yorkshire, & even at Birmingham there is a good Trade, nor are the Clothing Countrees yet affected. The principal Distress lies with the Nail Duffield & Serge Manufacturers who are already great Sufferers.

I shall advise you what further occurs for I am with great Truth Gentlemen [&c].

Rich Champion

1. Morris Papers, HUL.

2. The ship *Black Prince*, John Barry, master, which arrived at Bristol, January 31, 1775, from Philadelphia, with 1,246 barrels of flour, 16,203 bushels of wheat, 800 boards and 3,840 pipe and barrel staves. Journal of the *Black Prince*, Hepburn Collection, copy in William Bell Clark Collection.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

London, 6 March 1775

After the recent increase of the troops and of the ships, I thought, My lord, that in the present circumstances, you would like to receive a record of the armed forces and everything in active status in the Navy. In writing both reports, I took care to show clearly and precisely the disposition of the British forces as of next May. I thought I should anticipate and include the troops on their way to America as well as the frigates and corvettes being readied for the same destination. If no changes occur between now and that time, the entire forces bound for America will consist of 14,635 infantry men and 1200 marines under the orders of General Gage; also, 7 ships-of-the-line, 16 frigates, 18 corvettes, 7 schooners, with crews totaling 7600 men. All these ships are assigned to the waters of Northern America as well as the waters of the West Indies. The transport ships chartered by the Navy Department for the passage of 7 infantry regiments, 1 light Cavalry regiment and 700 marines under orders to go to America, form a total of 17,345 tons.

If we found ourselves in the same unfortunate situation as England, and if we had forces as large as hers in this part of the world, I dare say that England, without any consideration for the legitimacy of our motives or the sincerity of our promises, would seek safety with her own means, and we would soon see her squadrons in all her possessions, ready to protect them against any event. What would England not do to help bring about the independance of our colonies in rebellion? We are undoubtedly less suspicious and more righteous, but after the experience of the past, England can expect that we will take, for our own part, the precautions that the King will deem necessary. This power should not be surprised if, in similar conjuncture, we relied entirely upon her good faith. The Ministry may change and it is advisable that the successors do not find us without defense. Furthermore, I see that, among the most reasonable Englishmen, a certain number expect the King to have by next summer a squadron cruising for the protection of His colonies and the trade of His subjects. It has been clearly explained to me that, if we wished to protect the American fishermen in Newfoundland, we would have all of them on our side, and that these people could form with France and Spain an alliance so much the stronger that it would rest on their mutual interests. Since the suggestion came from a man of distinguished merit and for whom an immediate answer was required all the more because he wanted on the contrary that I take some time to think about it, I did not hesitate to reply that it was not a feasible thing. I beg you, My lord, to impute these observations only to my zeal. By submitting them to your intelligence, I beg you to remain assured that I profess no other opinions than your own to which I am bound by my feelings and my sense of duty.

We have received the information from Holland that the English Ambassador has requested the States General to stop all vessels of their nation from carrying arms and war ammunition to the English Colonies, and should they fail to do so, Great Britain would send warships to Texel, Zealand and the mouth of the Meuse in order to visit Dutch ships. You can, My lord, compare this to the language we are used to hear and you will see that weakness towards England is like an enemy that becomes worse and worse as it becomes easier to punish him.

I have the honor to forward to you along with the American papers as they were presented to the Parliament an abstract of these papers made by Mr. Frontier.² This correspondence does not flatter General Gage, for it shows clearly the sterility of his information as well as his means and views. It would be easy to verify that, on various occasions, several persons here were better informed of what actually went on in America and what was to come than General Gage himself who was there and in possession of the greatest civilian and military powers. At present, he begins to be regarded with more favor and it is believed that he will not be deprived of the command that General Amherst could have had if he had wished. Everything is being readied on the American continent for the Congress that is to take place on the tenth of May. Georgia which had not been represented at the last congress has elected a few representatives for the next one. The delegates of the other colonies will be nearly the same as those who fulfilled

this mission last year. It is also believed that New York will again send delegates, and that the refusal on the part of the legal Assembly of this province to take into consideration the resolutions of the last Congress will remain without consequences. It is true that the provincial congress appointed to carry out the said resolutions acts still as unanimously as in the past, and that, according to the latest news from this Colony, it had been decided to send back with her cargo a ship expected there any day from the port of London. Furthermore, the petitions expected from the assembly will be far from conforming to the desires of the government.

Be it as it may, this sort of apparent defection on the part of the assembly is, it seems to me, an unfortunate occurrence as far as the other colonies are concerned and the government must not neglect anything in order to draw the greatest advantage from it. The first summer months will apparently bring about in America important events the repercussion of which we will soon feel. . . .

The order has just been given for the building at Plymouth of a ship of 90 guns under the name of *Glory*.

You can rely, My lord, on my taking every opportunity to inform you of what goes on here. The state of things here becomes so interesting every day that it requires our greatest vigilance and care. I neglect nothing in order to be able to forward to you the most reliable informations and my connections are such that I can obtain them. Nothing interesting happened in either House since my last letter.

Table Showing the Guard Ships in the English Ports and the Ships Cruising in Various Seas, as of 6 March 1775. ³

EUROPE

Guard ships in Portsmouth, Plymouth, Chatham.

SHIPS	GUNS	MEN
Barfleur	90	400
Ocean	90	400
Centaur	74	350
Egmont	74	350
Marlborough	74	350
Royal Oak	74	350
Resolution	74	350
Mars	74	350
Ramillies	74	350
Albion	74	350
Dublin	74	350
Torbay	74	350
Kent	74	350
Exeter	64	300
Worcester	64	300
Raisonnable	64	300
Ardent	64	300
Ships of the line	17	5850

EUROPE—Continued

Ships cruising on the CHANNEL:

SHIPS	GUNS	MEN
Thames	32	180
Alderney	Corvette	100
Carcass	“	100
Hunter	“	100
Hazard	“	100
Speedwell	“	100
Race Horse	“	100
Ranger	“	100
Wasp	“	100
Wolf	“	100
Zephir	“	100
		1180
Frigate	1	
Corvettes	10	

NOTE: Among the corvettes now cruising on the Channel, it can be assumed that several will receive new orders to sail for more distant destinations as it will be deemed necessary.

Ships cruising in the Mediterranean:

SHIPS	GUNS	MEN
Medway	60	420
Winchelsea	32	180
Alarm	32	180
Levant	28	160
Raven	Corvette	100
		1040
Ship of the line	1	
Frigates	3	
Corvette	1	

TOTAL FOR EUROPE:

Ships of the line	18	
Frigates	4	
Corvettes	11	
Number of Men		8070

AFRICA: Coast of GUINEA.

Pallas	36	180
Weazel	Corvette	100
Frigate	1	
Corvette	1	
Number of Men		280

NOTE: Since one expects any day the ships and the corvette which had remained at the Cape of Good Hope under the command of Admiral Barland and which will

be decommissioned upon their return, we have not mentioned them here. The ships *Prudent*, *Intrepide* and *Warwick* which were attached to the same squadron have already arrived in Portsmouth and Plymouth. *Warwick* was to be decommissioned in Chatham, but since she was unable to sail up the Thames she received the order to be decommissioned in Portsmouth.

ASIA: East Indies.

SHIPS	GUNS	MEN
Salisbury	50	300
Coventry	28	160
Sea Horse	24	160
Dolphin	24	160
Swallow	Corvette	100
Ship of the line	1	
Frigates	3	
Corvette	1	
Number of Men		880

NORTHERN AMERICA:

Boyne	70	520
Asia	64	500
Sommerset	64	500
Preston	50	300
Tartar	28	160
Hind	24	160
Fowey	24	160
Scarborough	20	160
Lively	20	160
Mercury	20	160
Glasgow	20	160
Cerberus	20	160
Falcon	Corvette	100
King's Fisher	"	100
Swan	"	100
Savage	"	100
Scorpion	"	100
Tamer	"	100
Senegal	"	100
Merlin	"	100
Otter	"	100
Canceaux	"	100
Martin	"	100

NORTHERN AMERICA—Continued

SHIPS	GUNS	MEN
Hallifax	Schooner	60
Hope	“	60
St. John	“	60
Diligent	“	60
Gaspee	“	60
Magdalen	“	60
Cherokee	“	60
Ships of the line	4	
Frigates	8	
Corvettes	10	
Schooners	7	
Number of Men		4620

NEWFOUNDLAND:

Romney	50	300
Surprise	28	160
Rose	20	160
Aldborough	20	160
Nautilus	Corvette	100
		880
Ships of the line	1	
Frigates	3	
Corvette	1	

JAMAICA:

Antelope	50	300
Maidstone	28	160
Squirrel	20	160
Seaford	20	160
Ferret	Corvette	100
		880
Ship of the line	1	
Frigates	3	
Corvette	1	

ANTIGUA:

SHIPS	GUNS	MEN
Chatham	50	300
Argo	28	160
Deal Castle	20	160
Favourite	Corvette	100
Pomona	"	100
Diligence	"	100
Cruizer	"	100
Lynx	"	100
		1120
Ship of the line	1	
Frigates	2	
Corvettes	5	

AUSTRAL LANDS:

Resolution	Corvette	100
<i>TOTAL FOR AMERICA:</i>		
Ships of the line	7	
Frigates	16	
Corvettes	18	
Schooners	7	
Number of Men		7600

NOTE: Several Frigates and Corvettes indicated in this last column have not reached their destinations yet.

GENERAL TOTAL:

Ships of the line	26	} 88
Frigates	24	
Ships with less than 20 cannon . . .	38	
Number of Men		16,830

- 1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 260, LC Photocopy.
- 2. A special clerk at the French Embassy, London, in charge of the secret service.
- 3. This is representative of detailed reports Garnier periodically made on the status of Britain's Royal Navy.

7 Mar.

LORD SUFFOLK TO EMANUEL MATHIAS, BRITISH RESIDENT TO HAMBURG ¹

[Extract] St James's March 7th 1775.

His Majesty, Sir, sees with Pleasure the Readiness of the Senate of Hamburgh to fulfill his just Expectations upon the Subject of the Memorial which you thought it expedient to present. You will take the first Opportunity of acquainting Syndick Sillem & Senator Dormer, that His Majesty is perfectly satisfied with the respectfull Attention & friendly Behaviour of the Senate, on this Occasion, which it does not seem necessary, in the present Moment at least, to enforce by

an Edict, or more publick Notification then has already been made. Without meaning to censure an Excess of that Vigilance, which is so requisite at this Time, with regard to the American Contraband, especially that dangerous Species of it, Military Stores, I must just observe, that, as it is always prudent to avoid showing unnecessary Apprehensions, or giving unnecessary Alarms, it might have been as well if You had deferred taking the formal Step of delivering a Memorial 'till you had received Intelligence that the Rice Vessel was actually to return with a prohibited Cargo.

1. PRO, State Papers 82/94.

HANBURY & LLOYD TO JOHN PARK CUSTIS, YORK RIVER, VIRGINIA ¹

(Copy)

London 7th March 1775

Esteemed Friend Having none of thy favors unanswer'd we have nothing in particular to reply to, the present is to solicit the favor of thy Consignments & at the same time beg leave to acquaint thee that we do not intend sending the *Hanbury* or any other Ship to Virga this year,² flatter ourselves that this Circumstance will in no degree prevent any of our friends from favoring us with their Tobo as usual, we have given our friends Balfour & Barraud directions to take a Charter for any quantity they can procure & believe they will meet with no difficulty in procuring freight for their own Tobo if that is more agreeable –

We have not yet dispos'd of the *Hanbury's* Cargoe last year, as we were of opinion that tho the prices have been good they might rather increas'd & that there was very little chance of their falling – There is at present rather a stagnation – buyers are unwilling to come to market & Merchts backward in giving them encouragement, be assured, we shall now & att all other times make it our study to do the best with whatever is intrusted to our care, we remain with respect [&c.]

Hanbury & Lloyd

[Stamped Received at postoffice] Norfolk May 24

1. Custis Papers, VHS.

2. The firm apparently changed its mind shortly thereafter, as will be noted from the following extract from Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, dated May 26, 1775: "Williamsburg, May 26. The *Hanbury*, Maynard, from London, bound for Maryland, put into Hampton a few days ago, in which came passenger Mr. LLOYD, a partner of Mr. Hanbury's. Capt. Maynard left London the 3d of April, at which time the troops were not sailed from Corke. . . . The civil list is again increased to a million of money!"

8 Mar.

BERTHON BROTHERS TO CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN ¹

[Lisbon] March 8th [1775]

[Continuation of Letter begin February 18th.]

No alteration in prices at this markt, but we find that London & Bristol are rising in spite of the large imports there, occasioned by the Supposition that all the american ports will be blocked up by government. There are 321 bars of the *Peggy's* flour sold at different prices.

We have debitted your acct Rs. 5 & 145 for charges we made with 109 bars of small biscuit, which belonged to some of the people belonging to the

Peggy; we could not ascertain how much the charges would be till after she sailed, so Barron desir'd us to charge your acct for it, & you'll be pleased to understand yourself with the owners of the biscuit for the same.

B. B.

1. Ship Papers, Ship *Peggy*, NHS.

9 Mar.

LONDON REPRINT OF A NEWS ITEM FROM HOLLAND ¹

Amsterdam, March 9 [1775].

On the repeated representations of the English Ambassador at the Hague, a ship laden with powder and other ammunition, now lying in the Texel, bound for St. Eustatia, has been detained there, by order of the Government.

1. *London Chronicle*, from Thursday, April 6, to Saturday, April 8, 1775.

MOTION IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS ¹

March 9. The House having resolved itself into a Committee on the Papers relative to the Disturbances in America,

Lord North moved, that the Chairman be directed to move the House, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to restrain the trade and commerce of the colonies of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina, to Great Britain, Ireland, and the British islands in the West Indies, under certain conditions and limitations." He said, as the southern provinces had acceded to the non-importation and exportation agreement, it would be manifest partiality not to make their punishment the same as the northern provinces.

1. *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 411.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER ¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 9 March 1775

I have already told you, Sir, that we have good reason to be satisfied with Md. Rochford's explanations concerning the orders given to the British ships which are cruising on the coast of the English Colonies of America; we could wish for nothing more in this matter, except that these orders be precise enough so as to contain the greed of the captains to whom they are addressed: it is in the interest of the British Ministry as well as ours, and this consideration reassures me as much as their statements, if not more so.

But while we may rest at ease with respect to the trade and navigation of our Colonies, we have every reason for expecting disagreeable incidents in the area of Newfoundland; indeed, the English will avail themselves of the Bill recently passed for the purpose of restricting the fishing rights of the Colonies in this area in order to visit, harass, and probably ransack our fishermen on the pretence that they are smuggling; you will be so kind, Sir, as to invite Md. Rochford's attention to these drawbacks; they should convince this minister that the clause upon which they are contingent could have been omitted, all the more because it is in itself com-

pletely useless and because it is open to a false interpretation which will become a source of countless chicaneries and quarrels between the fishermen of both nations: we deem these considerations to be so important that they cannot fail to impress the British Ministry; unfortunately this evil appears to be beyond remedy. It is to the same purpose that I discussed this matter with Lord Stormont; he seemed to agree with my observations and I believe that he will present them favorably to his Court.

It is difficult, Sir, to guess what motives prompted Lord North to bring forth his last motion at the House of Commons. I suspect that this minister may have had two reasons: first, to get himself out of a difficulty; second, to deceive the Americans. However, it is to be feared that it was a miscalculation on his part, for, as Mr Fox observed most appropriately, it would be difficult to convince the Colonies that the Government wishes in good faith to give way and come to agreement with them, and, at the same time, have the English believe that the metropolitan authority and the acts of parliament will be upheld. This contradiction points to the division among the ministers, the uncertainty of their projects and of their views; it allows us to foresee the fall of the present ministry and Md Chatham's triumph. Of course, this last event would bring about a new order of things, and it is much to be feared that it would be at the sacrifice of peace in Europe.

We are not supposed to know what goes on in the English parliament, but since the public papers have mentioned them, there can be no objection to our withstanding the false imputations and fabricated reports uttered in that place and which seek to gain credence: Md. Sandwich puts forth such imputations when he says that we are loading ships for America at l'Orient; you will be so kind as to deny this to Lord Rochford, not officially but in private; should we keep silent in this matter the facts would be assumed to be correct and since the ships supposedly destined for America would not leave, the British might believe that we changed our mind in this respect out of fear and weakness.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 130, LC Photocopy.

10 Mar.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 10 March 1775

The Bill intended to restrict the trade of New England and prevent the latter from fishing on the Banks of Newfoundland or along the coast of Northern America was passed the day before yesterday with a majority of 188 voices against 58 at the House of Commons. This Bill sets 1 July of this year as the date when the interdiction will go into effect for the New Englanders to export any kind of goods to any parts of the world except the possessions of the British Empire, either in the West Indies or in Europe. As of the first of September, any ship loaded outside Great Britain and carrying any goods whatever to New England will be subject to seizure either in the ports of this province, or at a limit of six miles from her coast. Exception is made for horses, food supplies, and cloth made in Ireland and coming directly from that Kingdom.

On 20 July the order will go into effect to seize any New England ship found fishing on the Banks of Newfoundland, along the coast of Labrador, the coast of the gulf and river Saint Lawrence, Cape Breton, and Nova Scotia, or, finally, along any coast of Northern America. Exception is made only for the inhabitants of the small Island of Nantucket who, although dependant upon New England, retain their freedom to fish for reasons cited by the Committee of the Merchants of London which I had the honor to forward to you. One modification has also been added for whale fishing, and it is specified that any ship that will have sailed exclusively for this purpose before 1 June will be free to engage in whale fishing until the first of November of this year. . . .

The Lords will take this Bill into consideration next week. Although a strong opposition is expected on the part of Lord Chatham, the latter will have another opportunity to express his disapproval, since Lord North has requested and received permission yesterday to present a new Bill in order to restrict the trade of the following Colonies: New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina. The trade of these five colonies will therefore be confined to Great Britain, Ireland and the West Indies. At present, it might be interesting for us to know that Carolina will no longer be able to export rice to several foreign ports. . . .

This Minister (Lord Rochford) spoke to me of the threats made to the Dutch. He even said to me that the Government had presently two warships cruising off Texel in order to intercept three merchantmen upon which he received some information and which he claims are loaded with ammunition for the Colonies. Although they are officially bound for Saint Eustatius, England does not believe this Island needs any ammunition. As for the assertion made by the first Lord of the Admiralty concerning some ships supposedly loaded at Port l'Orient for the English Colonies, Myd Rochford told me he would not fail to chaff Myd Sandwich about it.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 261, LC Photocopy.

11 Mar.

WILLIAM LEE TO FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE ¹

[Extract]

London, 11 March 1775

The Bill for preventing the 4 New England Governments from fishing and confining their trade in every Article whatsoever to G. Britain, Ireland and the Brittish W. Indias, is now before the Lords having passed the H. of C – last night. I prepared a pretty strong petition against it to the Lords, which the London Merchants here will get presented on the 14th inst on its second reading; still the bill will pass. Another Bill is this day bro't into the H. of C. by Ld North to confine the trade in every Article, from and to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and So. Carolina to G. Britain, Ireland and the Brittish W. Indias only. Surely these bills will strengthen the union and perseverance of all the Colonies or nothing can do it.

1. Ford, ed., *Lee*, I, 151.

16 Mar.

DEBATES IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF LORDS ¹

Thursday, March 16, 1775

[Sir Charles Pratt] Lord Camden rose and said . . .

Now, my Lords, whether the proposed measure of severity ² be practicable or not, is also most seriously deserving of your lordships' attention. To conquer a great continent of 1800 miles, containing three millions of people, all indissolubly united on the great Whig bottom of liberty and justice, seems an undertaking not to be rashly engaged in. It is said by a noble lord (Dudley) that only our mildness and lenity save them from utter desolation, and prevent our carrying fire and sword through their country. But I believe it is certain that we would have done so, if we could; and that nothing but inability has prevented our proceeding to the most hostile extremes of violence and devastation; if we may judge from what has been done in that line, in which alone any thing can hope to be effected. But, my lords, where are you to get men and money adequate to the service and expence that the reduction of such a continent must require? What are the 10,000 men you have just voted out to Boston? Merely to save General [Thomas] Gage from the disgrace and destruction of being sacked in his entrenchments. It is obvious, my lords, that you cannot furnish armies, or treasure, competent to the mighty purpose of subduing America. It is obvious that your only effort can be by your naval power; and, as far as those efforts can have effect, you may certainly expect success: at least when we consider America alone: but whether France and Spain will be tame, inactive, spectators of your efforts and distractions, is well worthy the considerations, of your lordships. But admitting full success to your naval efforts, what can they effect; the blocking up their ports and the suppression of their trade. But will this procure the conquest of America? No, my lords; they are prepared to meet these severities, and to surmount them.

1. *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 435-442.

2. The first Restrictive Act, forbidding the New England states from trading with any nations except Great Britain, Ireland and the British West Indies, and barring them from the Fisheries.

18 Mar.

WILLIAM LEE TO THOMAS ADAMS, HENRICO COUNTY, JAMES RIVER, VIRGINIA ¹

Dear Sir

London 18 March 1775

Before this reaches you, you will probably have seen your old acquaintance Mr Edwd Browne who sail'd for Virga in Jany last.

The *Prospect* Capt Norwood now goes out to load for me in York River, & if yr other engagements do not prevent it, I wd beg leave to solicit yr kind assistance. I know it is in your power to do me much service, which you may be sure I shall always gratefully acknowledge. Your orders being conveyed in time either to Caps Norwood or Outram will be properly attended to. I have been so perfectly fatigued with helping to prepare & presentg the London Merchts several petitions respecting the American Affairs that I am almost worn out in constant service night & day ever since the 4th of Jany – Our applications have been treated as in great measure they deserved, because the Ministry know well

enough, the Merchts, except 2 or 3 of us, were not at all serious; hence it is, that our petitions are almost all, but the last to the H. of Lords, little else than Milk & Water, The Glasgow Merchts played the same game but with less trouble, they sent a strong petition to the H. of C[ommons] in favour of America, but at the same time gave Ld North to understand, by their member Ld F[rederick] Campbell, that they did not mean any opposition, but to gain credit in America & thereby more easily collect their debts – This is currently reported here but I cannot vouch it for fact therefore only mention it as a report. However it is certain that since the petition we have heard nothing more from Glasgw

You have fully the ministerial system of Tyranny plan'd for you – No one here can so well point out the best plan of opposition as you can yourselves, but oppose you will at all hazards I firmly hope & believe.

I am Dr Sir [&c.]

William Lee

P the *Prospect*

Capt Norwood

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

20 Mar.

London Gazette, TUESDAY, MARCH 28, TO SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1775

Hague, March 20.

Their High Mightinesses the States General have this Day issued a Proclamation, of which the following is a Translation:

PROCLAMATION

The States General of the United Provinces, To all who shall see, or hear these Presents read. Greeting:

Be it known that We, for particular Reasons Us thereunto moving, have thought fit absolutely to prohibit, and We hereby absolutely do prohibit, all Exportation of Ammunition, Gunpowder, Guns, and Shot, by Ships belonging to the Dominions of Great Britain, provisionally for the Term of Six Months, upon Pain not only of Confiscation of the Arms and Ammunition which shall be found there on Board, but also of a Fine of a Thousand Guilders over and above, at the Charge of the Commander, whose Ship shall be answerable and liable to Execution for the same.

That We have further thought fit to enact, and We do hereby enact, that during the abovesaid Term of Six Months, no Gunpowder, Guns, Shot, or other Instruments of War, shall be embarked on Board any other Ships, whether Foreign or belonging to this Country, to be transported Abroad, without Consent or Permission of the College of Admiralty under whose jurisdiction the Embarkation shall be made, under Pain of Confiscation of the Arms, Gunpowder, Guns, Shot, or other Ammunition, which shall have been embarked without Permission, and of the Commander's incurring a Fine of a Thousand Guilders, on Board of whose Ship the said Arms and Ammunition shall have been embarked, and his Ship be answerable and liable to Execution for the said Fine.



PUBLICATIE.



E Staaten Gene-

raal der vereenigde Nederlanden; Allen den geenen die deesen sullen sien of hooren leesen / salut: Doen te weten / dat Wy / om bysondere reedenen Ons daar toe moeterende / hebben goedgebonden / volstrektelph te verbieden / gelyk Wy volstrektelph verbieden by deesen / allen uitvoer van Ammunitie van Oorlog / Buskruit / Geschut / en Hoogels / met enige Scheeppen / onder de Dominien van Groot-Brittanniën t'huis hoorende / provisioneel voer een tyd van ses maanden / op pene van confiscatie / niet alleen van de Waapenen en Ammunities van Oorlog / die daar in sullen worden gebonden / maar ook op een boete van duisend guldens daarenboven / ten laste van den Schipper / waar voer desselfs Schip sal zyn verbonden en executabel.

Dat Wy voorts hebben goedgebonden te statuieren / soo als Wy statuieren by deesen / dat gebuurende de voorsz. gemelde tyd van ses maanden / geen Buskruit / Geschut / Hoogels / of enige andere Instruimenten van Oorlog / sullen moogen worden gelaaden / om met enige andere Scheeppen / het zyn byeen of hier te Lande t'huis behoorende / na buiten 's Lands te worden uitgevoert / sonder consent en permissie van het Collegie ter Admiraliteit / waar onder de inlaading sal moeten geschieden / alles op pene van confiscatie van de Waapenen / Buskruit / Geschut / Hoogels / of andere Ammunitie van Oorlog / welke sonder permissie sullen gelaaden zyn / en van een boete van duisend gul-

dens te verbeuren by den Schipper / in wiens Schip de voorsz. gemelde Waapenen en Ammunities sullen gelaaden zyn / en voer welke boete desselfs Schip sal zyn verbonden en executabel.

En op dat niemand hier van eenige ignorantie koomte te pretenderen / ontbieden en versoeken Wy de Heeren Staaten / Erfstadhouder / Gecommitteerde Raaden en Gedeputeerde Staaten van de respectieve Provincien / en alle andere Officieren en Justiciëren van deselve Landen / dat sy deese Onse Publicatie van stonden aan alomte doen verkondigen / publiceren en affigereen in alle Plaatsen daar sulks noodig is / en daar men gewoon is soodanige publicatie en affixie te doen; lasten en bevelen voorts de Raaden ter Admiraliteit / de Advocaten Fiscaal en Commissen Generaal / mitsgader alle Admiralen / Vice-Admiralen / Capiteinen / Officieren en Bevelhebberen / deese Onse Publicatie te agtervolgen / procedeernde en doende procederen tegegens de Contrabandiers van dien / sonder enige gratie / oogluiking / dissimulatie of verdrag / want Wy sulks bebonden hebben alsoo te behooren.

Gegeven in den Hage onder het Cacht van den Staat / de Paraphure van den Heere Presideerende in Onse Vergaderinge / en de Signature van Onsen Griffier / op den 20 Maart 1775. Was geparapheert / G. van Hardenbroek, vt. Onder stond / Ter ordonnantie van de hooggemelde Heeren Staaten Generaal. Geteekent / H. Fagel. Zinde op het spatium gedrukt het Cacht van haar Hoog Mog. op een rooden dwel overdekt met een papiere klupte.

And, that no one may pretend Ignorance hereof, We call upon and require the States, the Hereditary Stadtholder, the Committee of Council, and the Deputations of the States, of the respective Provinces, and all other the Officers and Justices of these Countries, to cause this our Proclamation to be forthwith promulged, published, and affixed, in all Places where such Publication is wont to be made. And We do further charge and command the Counsellors of the Admiralty, the Advocates General, together with all Admirals, Vice-Admirals, Captains, Officers and Commanders to pay Obedience to this Our Proclamation, proceeding and causing to be proceeded against the Transgressors thereof, without Favour, Connivance, Dissimulation, or Composition. – For such have We found meet.

Given at the Hague, under the Seal of the State, the Signature of the President or Our Assembly, and the Counter-Signature of Our Greffier, the 20th Day of March, 1775.

(Signed) G. Van Hardenbreck.

By Order of the States General,

(Counter-Signed) H. Fagel.

To which was affixed the Seal of their High Mightinesses.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 20 March 1775

No ships are being readied for the Mediterranean at this moment in any English port. The merchants would be the first to know if there were any hostile preparations against the Dey of Algiers, and the Government gives no indications to that effect. When this African Prince refused to receive the British Consul last year, the British Ministers confessed to me that, in spite of the importance of this wrong, they would not wage war against the Dey unless he incited a necessary revenge with new insults. Such a war would not be worth the trouble. Myd Rochford expressed this view and added that they would be content to leave the Dey in doubt about the intentions of the British Court. . . .

I informed you by mistake that the inhabitants of the Island of Nantucket were not included in the Bill that deprives New England of fishing in Newfoundland. They retain only the right to whale fishing, and it can be surmised that the Government intends even to take away from the Americans their fishing rights in Newfoundland completely and for ever, as you may have seen in the abstract of the sessions of the fifteenth and sixteenth of this month at the House of Lords, with the hope that the British Navy will benefit more from it. Furthermore, it is not in good faith that Myd Sandwich dared hold forth that American sailors are not used in the Royal navy. It has been proved that about 30,000 of them were spent in the last war. Even if it were not true that they are most usefully employed in the fleet at times of war, it would remain a fact that by providing men for the indispensable merchant ships, they leave the Royal Navy with much larger resources in finding crews for its warships among the British sailors. . . .

One speaks a great deal about two British ships cruising off Texel. The Minister from Denmark seems much concerned about it and fears apparently

that ships will also be sent to the Straits of the Sund. However, the other foreign Ministers are not surprised that the Republic is so pusillanimous as to suffer such an insult and it would be rather embarrassing for the British government if the Dutch, in spite of their weakness, decided to give them chase; but it seems that the British Ministry knows with whom they are dealing.

The Count of Maltzahn, Minister from Prussia, claims that one of the British ships had visited a Dutch vessel loaded with goods for America as she came out of Texel; he reports that no war ammunitions whatever were found on board, only papers sent from London to Philadelphia.

The corvettes *Nautilus* and *Merlin* sailed from Spithead successively on the 13th and 17th of this month in destination of Boston wherefrom the former will proceed to Newfoundland. There are at present 275 marines boarding transport ships at Portsmouth in destination of Boston. The rest of the marines are embarking at Plymouth and all the infantry and cavalry will leave from Cork in Ireland. The information was received from Portsmouth that *Worcester*, a reserve ship of sixty-four guns, will sail with the transport ships, but it is only hearsay since this ship has not yet received orders to this effect. The transport ships gathered at Portsmouth at present number 27. *Preston*, with fifty guns and three hundred crew is being readied to sail for Antigua where she will relieve *Chatham*, also with fifty guns.

[P.S.] Without wasting a single moment, I will add the various branches authorised by His Majesty [French] to the organisation of the Secret Service. The branch at Plymouth has been active for some time. Those at Chatham and at the Office of Ordnance will be established without much trouble. The only real difficulties will be encountered at the Admiralty, and I am determined to make every effort in order to surmount them. I will also take great care in keeping you exactly informed of all progress which we will be able to make in this matter. You may rely, My lord, upon my zeal and my great care in the spending of the King's money. I wish to use it only when I am certain that the service of His Majesty will reap the greatest benefit from it.

First, I must investigate the various responsibilities assigned to each clerk in order to find out which one will be most useful to us. Then, I must ascertain his fancies and personality traits, and determine his position in life so that I may attack him at his weakest spot. It may be that chance will serve us better than all these precautions; at least, we had to be in a position to avail ourselves of every opportunity, and, My lord, this is what you have enabled me to do.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 262, LC Photocopy.

22 Mar.

EDMUND BURKE'S SPEECH ON CONCILIATION WITH THE COLONIES ¹

[Extract]

[March 22, 1775]

Sir, permit me to observe that the use of force alone is but *temporary*. It may subdue for a moment, but it does not remove the necessity of subduing again; and a nation is not governed which is perpetually to be conquered. . . .

A further objection to force is, that you *impair the object* by your very endeavours to preserve it. The thing you fought for is not the thing which you

recover, but depreciated, sunk, wasted, and consumed in the contest. Nothing less will content me than *whole America*. . . . Let me add, that I do not choose wholly to break the American spirit, because it is the spirit that has made the country. . . .

In this character of the Americans, a love of freedom is the predominating feature which marks and distinguishes the whole; and as an ardent is always a jealous affection, your colonies become suspicious, restive, and untractable whenever they see the least attempt to wrest from them by force or shuffle from them by chicane what they think the only advantage worth living for. . . .

Three thousand miles of ocean lie between you and them. . . . You have, indeed, winged ministers of vengeance, who carry your bolts in their pounces to the remotest verge of the sea. But there a power steps in that limits the arrogance of raging passions and furious elements, and says, "So far shalt thou go, and no further." . . .

Then, Sir, from these six capital sources: of descent, of form of government, of religion in the northern provinces, of manners in the southern, of education, of the remoteness of situation from the first mover of government—from all these causes a fierce spirit of liberty has grown up. It has grown with the growth of the people in your colonies, and increased with the increase of their wealth; a spirit that unhappily meeting with an exercise of power in England which, however lawful, is not reconcilable to any ideas of liberty, much less with theirs, has kindled this flame that is ready to consume us. . . .²

1. Edmund Burke, *Speeches and Letters On American Affairs* (London and New York, 1956), 76–141.
2. On June 16, 1775 the Duke of Richmond wrote Burke congratulating him on the Conciliation Speech: "Since I saw You I have read Your last Speech and cannot too strongly express my admiration of it. It is so calm, so quiet, so reasonable, so just, so proper, that one cannot refuse conviction to every Part." George H. Guttridge, ed., *The Correspondence of Edmund Burke* (London and Chicago, 1961), III, 171. Hereafter cited as Guttridge, ed., *Burke Correspondence*.

WILLIAM LEE TO THE SPEAKER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSEMBLY¹

Sir,

London, 22 March, 1775.

My brother Arthur Lee, not knowing of this opportunity, I take the liberty for him to enclose an attested copy of a letter from Germany, which may be of some importance to your province. The Fishing Act, as it is called, passed the House of Lords yesterday with an Amendment, which is, to restrain New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia from the right of fishing, as well as the four New England governments. The blanks in the bill restraining the trade of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, &c. are filled up. It is to take place the 20th of July next. Therefore all your products for foreign markets will no doubt be ship'd off before that time. You will be so good as to communicate the contents to the Honble. Matthew Tilghman, Speaker of the House of Delegates in Maryland, who will probably be in Philadelphia when this comes to your hands

The above intelligence may perhaps be of service if communicated to the public.

1. Ford, ed., *Lee*, I, 151, 152.

24 Mar.

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co ¹

Gentlemen

Bristol 24 March 1775

I have just now reced the enclosed Resolution from London, which Mr [Edmund] Burke made the 22d Instant in the House of Commons. He spoke for two hours & a half in the most masterly manner. A Speech which never was excelled within those Walls.² I send this to the Road therefore cannot farther enlarge than that the resolution passed as usual in the negative by a very great majority 270 to 78.

I am with great Truth Gentlemen [&c.]

Rich Champion

I contine selling the Friendship's Wheat at 6/9. –

1. Morris Papers, HUL.

2. Burke's famous speech urging reconciliation with America, and repeal of the "Intolerable Acts."

SIR JOSEPH YORKE, BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO THE HAGUE, TO LORD SUFFOLK ¹

[Extract]

Hague, March 24th 1775.

The Proclamation publish'd by the States General for restraining provisionally under certain Penalties, the Exportation of Arms and Ammunition for the space of Six Months, appeared this morning in Print, & will be distributed & fixed up in all the trading Towns of the Seven Provinces. I have the Honour to inclose one of the Copies of the Proclamation, with a Translation of it.² It is the Opinion of Persons well conversant with Trade here, that these Orders of Their High Mightinesses will totally stop these clandestine Expeditions on Ships carrying the British Flag; And that the Dutch Merchants who appear to have acted chiefly on Speculation, will in the present State of Affairs in North America, & from the Obstacles now thrown in their way at home, be deterred from speculating upon such Uncertainty, & with so many different Obstacles to surmount; But of this, Time only can give us the necessary Proof.

1. PRO, State Papers 84/546.

2. See under 20 March. Translation was printed in *London Gazette*.

26 Mar. (Sunday)

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co ¹

Gentlemen

Bristol 26 March 1775

On the other side is Copy of my last. I sent you also a few Lines by Cn Clark via New York enclosing Copy of the Resolutions moved for by Mr [Edmund] Burke last Wensday but with the usual Success. The Ministry carrying it against him by a great Majority. How they could put a negative upon Resolutions which are in themselves incontestible, how they could say that the Colonies did not raise subsidies at the requisition of a Secretary of State, and had not the thanks of Parliament, when it appears on their Journals, is astonishing. These

Resolutions are couched in the Spirit of the Constitution of this Country, & far superior to the conciliatory Bill of Lord Chatham, which abounds with numerous difficulties. When the Colonies refuse to raise Subsidies, at the requisition of a Secretary of State, then & then only can they be complained of. I hope the next Congress will determine with Wisdom, & make sure Errors they have perceived in their last determinations, will be rectified in this, but above all to conciliate the affections of the people at home I think essentially necessary for the good of the whole.

I go on selling Wheat at 6/9. I have sold more than half the Cargo, though have delivered but few. Several Cargoes of heavy Wheat dropping in prevents my selling this Wheat which is lighter so fast as I could wish. The Weather is somewhat mended which makes this Article & flour rather dull at present. I am always with great truth Gentlemen [&c.]

Rich Champion

P S. The New England fishery Bill was read a third time in the [House of] Lords & an amendment made by some of the Ministerial Lords. It was sent back to the Commons where one of the Amendments has been received the other rejected even by the Ministry themselves Many think the Bill constitutional.

1. Morris Papers, HUL.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER ¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 26 March 1775

I have received, Sir, your letter No. 261 which you took the trouble to send me on the tenth of this month.

The King saw with pleasure, Sir, the suppression of the clause concerning our fishing rights on the coast of Newfoundland which was inserted in the Bill restricting fishing for the inhabitants of New England. His Majesty approved the indirect means to which you resorted in order to obtain the said suppression all the more because this matter would not have justified a ministerial action on our part. The courtesy displayed by the British Ministers on this occasion is another proof of the sincerity of their conciliatory feelings and their desire to avoid any cause for the smallest argument between the two courts; for this reason, we entertain no doubts whatsoever regarding them, and, for our part, we are certain that His British Majesty is convinced that our intentions correspond perfectly with His. . . .

It seems, Sir, that there is much concern with regard to the ships being commissioned in Spain. If the British ministers speak to you about this, you will assure them, as if you were speaking for yourself, that these ships now being commissioned are part of the design with regard to the King of Morocco. They will easily be convinced of it if they consider the small number of ships that one intends to put to sea.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 132, LC Photocopy.



Edmund Burke. From the studio of Sir Joshua Reynolds, 1771.

28 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL
GRAVES ¹

By &c.

Having ordered Lord William Campbell Commr of His Majestys Sloop the *Scorpion* to proceed in her to Charles Town in South Carolina, And if upon his arrival, it may be found necessary for the King's Service that his Lordship should remain there, to send the Lieutenant or Commanding Officer of the said Sloop in her to Boston with directions to put himself under your command and follow your orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required & directed to take him under your command accordingly, & employ the said Sloop as part of your Squadron. Given &c 28th March 1775

By &c. PS

Palmerston
Lisburne
H. Penton

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 306, NYHS Transcript.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 28 March 1775

I have the honor to forward to you the request which the merchants of London interested in the trade with Northern America have presented to the King of England in order to beg His Majesty to refuse His consent with regard to the Bill passed by both Houses. I join to this document the protest made by 16 Lords on the same subject. . . .

We have not heard anything yet about the memorandum, petition and remonstrance expected from New York. It is only said with certainty that a ship which arrived there from Glasgow after the date set by the Congress when all importation must stop, was not able to unload her cargo neither whole nor in part, and that the situation is the same in the other Colonies.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 264, LC Photocopy.

30 Mar.

DEBATES IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF LORDS ¹

Thursday, March 30, [1775]

Mr. John Luttrell said: Sir; I am induced to offer a few observations upon the imperfections of the Bill before you,² that we may not too hastily adopt an opinion which has been frequently held forth by the friends of administration, that provided our trade from Great Britain and Ireland should increase, though that, of America do suffer, you will have a greater number of seamen. Sir, it has been said, in support of the assertion I have alluded to, that very few American seamen return in English vessels from that coast. I think it a very fortunate circumstance that they do not, because we have no employment for them, and they therefore must become a burthen to this country. But I will appeal to my

naval friends on the other side of the House, whose knowledge of maritime concerns is very extensive, if American seamen are not always impressed in every part of the world to man the King's ships whenever the service requires men? . . . But, Sir, I have ever considered America to be a great nursery, where seamen are raised, trained, and maintained in times of peace to serve this country in times of war, and though I shall readily admit, from the distance of their shores, that you cannot lay hands upon them the first half hour of an armament, yet am I persuaded that you may be possessed of some thousands within the time usually prescribed for the return of English seamen from foreign services. As I am up, Sir, I would wish to say a word or two upon that part of the Bill which principally relates to the commanders of his Majesty's ships of war, employed for what the Bill stiles the protection, but would be much more properly termed the destruction of the trade, and it may possibly not be found quite so easy in practice as to some people it appears in theory, either to seize these vessels, or to discover false clearances or certificates. . . . I have no doubt but the Americans, by being put into the calamitous situation they are, and feeling the tyranny of the mother country, will endeavour to carry on a trade at the risk of the fine imposed under this Act of Parliament; . . . Sir, on the score of seizure I shall revert to my former arguments, that the King's ships cannot keep the seas in safety, in the northern parts of the coasts of America, for more than half the year. Whenever they can cruize, the Americans will have the advantages, that a perfect knowledge of the shoals, soundings, rocks, creeks, and places of shelter can afford them; by which means they must frequently escape your most vigilant researches: besides it is not a very pleasant service for an officer to risk the King's ships upon a lee-shore, with which he is totally unacquainted, not in pursuit of an enemy, but to destroy a friend. Upon the whole, Sir, I consider this Bill to be somewhat less cruel than that which is meant to demolish the New England provinces by famine; in every other respect I hold it to be equally mischievous. It is with real concern I see humanity and sound policy giving way to that hated revenge which involves indiscriminately the innocent with the guilty. By this oppressive Act you will certainly extend the unhappy differences which already but too generally prevail in America, to every province; nay, I fear I may say, to almost every individual upon that vast continent: therefore, I protest against the measure.

1. *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 593–595.

2. The second Restrictive Act, affecting Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and South Carolina.

London Gazette, TUESDAY, MARCH 28, TO SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1775

Westminster, March 30.

This Day His Majesty came to the House of Peers, and being in His Royal Robes seated on the Throne with the usual Solemnity, Sir Francis Molyneux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a Message from His Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their Attendance in the House of Peers: The Commons being come thither accordingly, His Majesty was pleased to give the Royal Assent to



George III. By Richard Houston, 1772.

*An Act to restrain the Trade and Commerce of the Provinces of Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire, and Colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Island, and Providence Plantation, in North America, to Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Islands in the West Indies; and to prohibit such Provinces and Colonies from carrying on any Fishery on the Banks of Newfoundland, or other Places therein mentioned, under certain Conditions and Limitations.*¹

1. A copy of the act was forwarded to the colonial governors by circular letter from John Pownall, an Under Secretary of State, on 5 April 1775, with instructions to cause it "to be made public in such manner as has been usual on like occasions." Thomas Gage acknowledged receipt of his copy on 3 June 1775, but commented that "from the present Temper of the People," there was little probability of getting it printed anywhere except Boston. Gage Mss. CL.

31 Mar.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 31 March 1775

The frigate *Coventry* has sailed from Portsmouth on the 28th of this month in destination of the East Indies from where the corvette *Hawke* just arrived. The frigate *Levant* arrived in this port on the 29th. She comes from Gibraltar. The letters of the same date from Portsmouth mention a transport ship that had just arrived there in order to embark the horses belonging to the general officers who are to embark themselves in the course of next month in destination of America. The marines who had boarded ship at Plymouth were still there on the 26th of this month, detained by unfavorable winds.

I have often heard, My lord, that our sea officers were excellent in theory and superior to the British in that matter, and that they lacked only the practice acquired at sea; to tell the truth, the latter is considered as more essential than the former. Since the scarcity of our commissions does not allow them to acquire this practice as much as they would like, would it not be possible to use the youngest ones as volunteers in the fleet now being commissioned in the Spanish ports. It seems to me, My lord, that there would result among other advantages an opportunity to bind by a mutual esteem the officers of the two nations who will eventually be called upon to defend the respective possessions of their Sovereigns. I beg your pardon, My lord, if I take it upon myself to make such a suggestion; and I beg to impute the liberty that I take on this occasion only to my most sincere zeal.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 265, LC Photocopy.

2 Apr.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER ¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 2 April 1775

It is true, Sir, as Mr. de Malzhan related, that the English visited at the mouth of the Texel a Dutch ship with a cargo for St. Eustatius, and that they burned all the papers that they found on board. Deliberations on this act of violence have taken place, but the decisions taken consequently are not yet known.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 113, LC Photocopy.

5 Apr.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

By &c.

Captain [William] Dudingston Commander of His Majesty's Sloop the *Senegal* (by whom you will receive this) being directed to put himself under your command and follow your Orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required and directed to take him under your command accordingly and employ him, and the said Sloop, in such manner as you shall find best for His Majts Service entrusted to your care. Given &c. 5th April 1775.

Sandwich
J. Buller
Lisburne

To Samuel Graves Esqr Vice Adml of the White &c. &c. at Boston.
By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 315, NYHS Transcript.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

By &c.

Whereas an Act of Parliament hath passed this present Sessions entitled, "An Act to restrain the Trade & Commerce of the Provinces of Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire & Colonies of Connecticut & Rhode Island, and Providence Plantation in North America to Great Britain, Ireland and the British Islands in the West Indies, and to prohibit such Provinces and Colonies from carrying on any Fishery on the Banks of Newfoundland, or other places therein mentioned under certain Conditions and Limitations"

We send you herewith Forty printed Copies of the said Act and do hereby require and direct you to cause the directions therein mentioned to be complied with as punctually as possible, so far as the same may depend upon you and the several Captains & Commanders of His Majts Ships & Vessels under your command. Given &c. the 5th April 1775.

Sandwich
J. Buller
Lisburne.

By &c. P.S.

By the *Senegal*

Duplicate signed, Sandwich – J Buller – C. Spencer sent 15th April by the *Cerberus*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 316 NYHS Transcript.

JOHN POWNALL, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE, TO COLONIAL GOVERNORS ¹

(Circular)

Whitehall, 5th April, 1775

Sir, As it may be of use that His Majesty's Subjects in America should be informed of the Proclamation issued by the Order of the States General prohibit-

ing the Exportation of Arms and Ammunition from their Dominion in British Ships, or in their own Ships without leave of their College of Admiralty; I am directed by Lord Dartmouth to transmit to you the inclosed Gazette, containing the said Proclamation,² which you will cause to be printed and published in such manner as you shall think fit. I am [&c.]

John Pownall

1. Gage Papers, CL. Another copy is to be found in Hazard, ed., *Pennsylvania Archives*, First Series, IV, 617.
2. *London Gazette*, March 28–April 1, 1775.

“ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA, . . .”¹
[1775]

5th April – Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves to cause an Act of the 15th [year] of His present Majesty, Cap. 10. for restraining the Trade and Commerce of the four New England Governments to be complied with so far as may depend upon him and the Officers employ’d under him.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

6 Apr.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO
VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

By &c.

Whereas, in pursuance of the King’s Order in Council of the 13th day of April last, we have caused a Vessel to be purchased fitted and armed for the Service of William Gerrard De Brahm Esq. Surveyor General of His Majesty’s American Dominions in the Southern District, and to be called the *Cherokee*, and have appointed Lieut John Fergusson to command her & directed him to proceed in her with the said Mr De Brahm, his Assistants, Servants &c. to Charles Town in South Carolina and from thence, from time to time, to such other parts and in such manner, for the executing the said Service, as the said Mr De Brahm shall desire, & to follow such further Orders as he shall receive from you; You are hereby required and directed to give him such further Orders accordingly, with respect to the punctual and due performance of the said Service, as you shall find necessary, And to order him, whenever the aforesaid Service will admit of it, to use his best endeavours to seize Vessels employed in illegal Trade, for which he will be furnished with a Deputation from the Commissioners of His Majesty’s Customs at Boston; But you are strictly to direct him, neither upon this or any other Account, to deviate from proceeding agreeable to the desire of Mr De Brahm for the performance of the abovementioned Service of making Survey’s for which the Vessel under his command has been purchased, and to which she is (by the King’s Order) particularly assigned. Given &c. the 6th April 1775.

By &c. P.S.

Sandwich
Palmerston
Lisburne

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 319, NYHS Transcript.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 6th April 1775

I have received and communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of the 20h. February last giving an Account of your proceedings, and inclosing a Copy of a Letter which you had received from Captain [James] Wallace relative to a Plot formed for destroying His Majesty's Ship the *Rose* at Rhode Island; And in return I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you that an Extract of so much of your said Letter as relates to that subject with a Copy of Captain [James] Wallace's and its Inclosure, have been sent to the Earl of Dartmouth for His Majesty's Information I am &c

P. S.

(By the *Senegal* Sloop)Duplicate sent 15h April, by the *Cerberus*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 327, NYHS Transcript.

7 Apr.

ALEXANDER EMSLEY TO SAMUEL JOHNSON ¹

[Extract]

London, April 7th, 1775.

There is an account received that the Transports are sailed from Cork, and next week, the Generals [William] Howe, [John] Burgoyne and [Henry] Clinton, follow them from hence in a Man-of-War; some of these troops are destined for New York, and two Companies, with a Sloop, are to be sent to Georgia . . .

They say your Seaports are to be turned into garrison Towns, and the people of the Country left at liberty to form any establishment they think proper. . . . Your Governour I suppose will take up his residence amongst the musketoes at Breacock, and you will be a Congress, or Committee-man, instead of a military man.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, IX, 1210.M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 7 April 1775

I shall continue to direct the strictest attention to the various matters interesting the Service of the King and especially these matters that you particularly recommended to me, My lord. Myd Rochford spoke to me yesterday about the ships now being commissioned in Spain advancing only that the Opposition observes that large vessels could not be intended for the coast of Africa since the waters are not deep enough to allow these ships to get close to it. I answered, My lord, in the manner that you dictated, and Myd Rochford assured me that he was equally convinced that these ships were intended for no other purpose than the war against the King of Morocco. . . .

The troops in destination of America are about to depart from Corke in Ireland, and the Generals will leave any time in order to embark at Portsmouth.

There is much talk about two ships from Virginia that are said to have sailed directly to Dunkerque in order to unload their cargo of tobacco without calling at any British port. If this fact is true and is repeated, the merchants of London

and Glasgow who have raised so high the price of their tobacco will be disappointed in their waiting. This is a clear infraction of the Navigation Act; but it is up to the British and not to us to carry out the inforcement of their trade laws. The Corporation of the City of London has presented a remonstrance to the King. You will find it in substance in the Bulletin. You will find there also, My lord, a new promotion list of Admirals. They gave their thanks to the King yesterday at his levee. Myd. [?] who was present came to tell me in jest that I did not seem to take this promotion as a sign of war. I answered in the same tone that I regarded this promotion as an answer to our Marshals of France.

Since the New Lord Bristol has resigned his seat at the Council of the Admiralty the King has appointed the Knight Palisser to take his succession.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 266, LC Photocopy.

8 Apr.

London Gazette, TUESDAY, APRIL 4 TO SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1775

At the Court at St. James's, the 5th Day of April, 1775,

PRESENT,

The KING's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS the Time limited by His Majesty's Order in Council of the 19th of October last, for prohibiting the Exporting out of this Kingdom, or carrying Coastwise, Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, will expire the 19th Day of this Instant April – And whereas it is judged expedient that the said Prohibition should be continued for some Time longer – His Majesty doth therefore, by and with the Advice of His Privy-Council, hereby order, require, prohibit, and command, that no Person or Persons whatsoever (except the Master-General, Lieutenant General, or Principal Officers of the Ordnance, for His Majesty's Service) do, at any Time during the Space of Six Months, to commence from the said 19th Day of this Instant April, presume to transport, into any Parts out of this Kingdom, or carry Coastwise, any Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, or ship or lade any Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition on Board any Ship or Vessel, in order to transporting the same into any Parts beyond the Seas, or carrying the same Coastwise, without Leave or Permission in that Behalf first obtained from his Majesty, or His Privy-Council, upon Pain of incurring and suffering the respective Forfeitures and Penalties inflicted by an Act passed in the Twenty-ninth Year of His late Majesty's Reign, entituled, "An Act to impower His Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Salt-petre; and to inforce the law for impowering His Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms and Ammunition; and also to impower His Majesty to restrain the carrying Coastwise of Salt-petre, Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition." And the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, the Commissioners for Executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, the Master-General of the Ordnance, and His Majesty's Secretary at War are to give the necessary Directions herein as to them may respectively appertain.

Steph. Cottrell.

10 Apr.

THOMAS EDEN & CO. TO HALL & GILBERTS, BALTIMORE ¹

Gentn –

London 10 April 1775

The present serves Chiefly to hand you Account Sales of the 4 hhds Tobacco you favour'd us with P[er] the *Baltimore* Capt Hanrick ² Nett proceeds (Insurance deducted) £ 29.1.10 to your Credit in Account with C. Court & Co ³ – If the unhappy disputes with America should not soon Subside Tobacco will naturally advance in price – your further assistance to any of our Ships will not only oblige C. Court & Co but will be esteem'd a favour done Gentn [&c.]

Tho^s Eden & Co.

Mess C Court & Co have been most cruelly disappointed by the backwardness of your Remittances – Mr Jos Court goes over herewith & will pay his Respects to you, and to whom you'll please be referr'd –

1. U.S. Naval Papers, MdHS.

2. The *Baltimore*, a ship of 195 tons, and manned by fourteen men, James Hanrick, master, sailed for London prior to December 1774, and returned April 8, 1775, according to the inward entry in the Port of Entry Books, 1745–75, MdHS.

3. An account of the sales of the four hogsheads is attached to the letter.

11 Apr.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 11 April 1775

As the legal Assembly of New York discussed whether it would conform itself to the resolution of non-importation as recommended by the Congress, this question has been determined in the negative by a majority of 4 voices. Next it entertained the motion that a ship recently arrived from London should be allowed to unload her goods and the motion was passed with a majority of 5 voices. But the Committee of Inspection appointed by the Congress came up with the opposite decision and since it was backed by a large majority of the people, the ship was forced to leave immediately without unloading anything. She was allowed with great condescension to take water and food supplies for her trip back. The Generals are to leave next Saturday. . . .

Since the terms of the proclamation by His British Majesty forbidding the exportation of weapons and other war ammunitions were to expire on the 19th of this month, the Government has extended the said terms for a period of six months. Since the terms of this proclamation are intended only for the Colonies in Northern America, exception can easily be made for ammunition destined for other places. After receiving the information that a small ship is presently being loaded in London for Gibraltar with 250 barrels of powder, cannon balls, etc. we discovered that she was destined for Tangier. . . .

The corvette *Raven* arrived from the Mediterranean in Portsmouth where she will be laid up. The frigate *Argo* sailed for Antigua from Plymouth on the 5th of this month; the ship *Portland* and the corvette *Pomona*, presently at Spithead, will follow her. The corvette *Senegal* is in the same roads, ready to sail for Northern America with a transport ship carrying a company of artillery destined

for Newfoundland. The corvette *Scorpion* left Portsmouth on the 6th of this month for South Carolina. She is under the command of Lord Campbell, Governor of this province.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 267, LC Photocopy.

LONDON REPRINT OF A NEWS ITEM FROM FRANCE ¹

Paris, April 11 [1775]

Orders are given in all the sea ports of this kingdom, prohibiting the taking in any cargoes for the English colonies; and to inform those who do so, that it will be at their own risk.

1. *London Chronicle*, from Thursday, April 20, to Saturday, April 22, 1775 Postscript.

13 Apr.

London Gazette, TUESDAY, APRIL 11, TO SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1775

Westminster, April 13.

This Day His Majesty came to the House of Peers, and being in His Royal Robes seated on the Throne with the usual Solemnity, Sir Francis Molyneux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a Message from His Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their Attendance in the House of Peers: The Commons being come thither accordingly, His Majesty was pleased to give the Royal Assent to

*An Act to restrain the Trade and Commerce of the Colonies of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina, to Great Britain, Ireland and the British Islands in the West Indies, under certain Conditions and Limitations.*¹

1. See Lord Dartmouth's letter of April 15, forwarding a copy of this act.

14 Apr.

LORD COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO FLAG OFFICERS AND CAPTAINS OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS ¹

[Extract]

[Admiralty] 14 April 1775

The King having been pleas'd by His Order in Council of the 5th inst to Order, Require, Prohibit and Command, That no Person or Persons whatsoever except the Master Genl Lieut General or Principal Officers of the Ordnance, for His Majesty's Service do, at any time during the space of six Months, to commence from the 19th day of this Month, presume to transport into any parts out of this Kingdom, or carry Coastwise, any Gunpowder or any sort of Arms or Ammunition, or ship or lade any Gunpowder or any sort of Arms or Ammunition, on board any Ship or Vessel, in order to transporting the same into any parts beyond the Seas, or carrying the same Coastwise, without leave or permission in that behalf first obtain'd from His Majesty or His Privy Council, . . . We . . . do hereby most strictly require & direct you to use your best endeavours to intercept, seize & bring

into Port, all Ships & Vessels whatsoever having on board Gunpowder or any sort of Arms or Ammunition, shipp'd or laden on board them in any of the Ports of this Kingdom, and intended to be carried Coastwise, or to be transported into any parts beyond the Seas; . . .

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99. This Order in Council extended one issued October 19, 1774.

15 Apr.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

By &ca.

The King having been pleased, by His Order in Council of the 5th of this Month, to Order, Require, Prohibit, and Command, That no Person or Persons whatsoever, (except the Master General, Lieutenant General, or Principal Officers of the Ordnance, for His Majesty's Service) do, at any Time during the Space of Six Months, to commence from the 19th of this Month, presume to Transport into any Parts out of this Kingdom, or carry Coastwise, any Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, or Ship or lade any Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, on Board any Ship or Vessel, in order to transporting the same into any Parts beyond the Seas, or carrying the same Coastwise, without Leave or Permission in that behalf first obtained from His Majesty or His Privy Council, upon Pain of incurring and suffering the respective Forfeitures and Penalties inflicted by an Act passed in the Twenty ninth Year of His late Majesty's Reign, intituled, "An Act to empower His Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Salt Petre; and to inforce the Law for empowering His Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms and Ammunition; and also to empower His Majesty to restrain the carrying Coastwise of Salt-petre, Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition." We send you herewith Forty Copies of the said Order in Council, and do hereby most strictly require & direct you to Order the several Captains & Commanders of His Majts Ships & Vessels under your Command, to use their best Endeavors to intercept, Seize, & bring into Port all Ships & Vessels whatsoever having on Board Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, Shipped or laden on Board them in any of the Ports of this Kingdom, & intended to be carried Coastwise, or to be transported into any Parts beyond the Seas; excepting however such Ships or Vessels as are employed by the Master General, Lieutenant General, or Principal Officers of the Ordnance for His Majts Service, and also such whose Masters shall have obtained Leave or Permission from His Majesty or His Privy Council as beforement[ion]ed. Given &c 15th Apl 1775.

By &c P.S.

Sandwich
J Buller
C. Spencer.

(p the *Cerberus*)

Duplicate sent 2d June 1775 By the *Raven* – Signed – Sandwich – Palmers-ton – H. Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 345, NYHS Transcript.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL
GRAVES ¹

By &ca

Whereas an Act of Parliament hath passed this present Sessions entitled.

“An Act to restrain the Trade and Commerce of the Colonies of New Jersey, Pensilvania, Maryland, Virginia and South Carolina, to Great Britain, Ireland and the British Islands in the West Indies, under certain Conditions and Limitations.”

We send you herewith Forty printed Copies of the said Act; and do hereby require and direct you to cause the Directions thereinmentioned to be complied with as punctually as possible, so far as the same may depend upon you and the several Captains & Commanders of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels under your Command. Given &ca 15th April 1775.

By &c. P.S.

Sandwich

J Buller

C: Spencer

(By the *Cerberus*)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 347, NYHS Transcript.

“ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY]
DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA” ¹

1775

15th [April] – Do [Vice Admiral Samuel Graves to cause] another Act of the same Year Cap. 18 for restraining the Trade and Commerce of New Jersey & all the other Colonies to the Southward of it as far as South Carolina inclusive [to be complied with as far as may depend upon him and the Officers employ'd under him.]

Do Do Do His Majesty's Order in Council of the 5th prohibiting with certain exceptions the transporting Gunpowder or any sort of Arms or Ammunition into any parts beyond the Seas or carrying the same Coastwise &c.

N.B.

Like Orders were given to all the Ships at home.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

JOHN HOBSON TO STEPHEN WEST ¹

Dear Sir

London April 15th 1775

I wrote you yesterday by E. Hall who I left at Gravesend this morning, having seen him that far on his way – This comes by the *Content* Capt Medforth who I have already advised you, I had Charter'd, for to be our second Ship this year in Patuxent and in whom Capt Smith comes out a Passenger, but is to Act as a riding Captain in the Country, as you will see more particularly by the Charter Party, a Copy of which he has with him – This Vessell, as well as the rest, I hope you will contrive to get Loaded some how, it is the last I shall send

out this year, and altogether they will not carry 1500 hhds, a less quantity than we have had home any one year, for sometime past and the Accots. Sales I am sure have never been better, nor so good, for which reasons, I say, I hope these Ships will all get Loaded, and to your best care, I recommend them, wishing them every one safe to you –

I am very Anxious to hear from you and wonder much I dont get a Letter by some Conveyance or other, surely it cannot be much longer before I do Mr Russell has inform'd me he shall close the Commission on the Negroe Affair next week, having already kept it open a long time. I have prevailed upon him to promise to stay untill I can hear from you once more before he does, and that is all –

Manduit is exceedingly Angry that you did not send him any thing by the last Packet as I expected he would – And I am exceedingly distressed on Account of not having sold any Tobo so long – and some of our Tradesmen are very Ill temper'd Just now so that I have nothing very pleasant to write you by this Opportunity You shall hear from me by every Conveyance and for the present I remain – Dear Sir [&c.]

John Hobson

1. Oden Papers, MdHS.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

[Extract]

Whitehall 15th April 1775

So much depends upon the inclosed Act of Parliament for restraining the Commerce & Fisheries of the New England Governments, that I cannot too earnestly recommend it to your Attention, at the same time it is hoped that the good effects of it will be found, not in the Restrictions it contains, but in that return of Duty and Obedience on the part of the People which will render the Execution of those Restrictions unnecessary.

With regard to the other Act for restraining the Commerce of the more Southern Colonies, the Execution of it depends principally upon the Care and Vigilance of the Governors of those Colonies, but I am nevertheless commanded by the King to transmit it to you for your Information.

1. Gage Papers, CL. The above is taken from a duplicate dispatch which was received Oct. 4, 1775. The original was received and acknowledged May 25, 1775.

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co ¹

Gentlemen

Bristol 15 April 1775

My Last was, 26 Ultimo since I have your favour 22 feby Your Opinion about the Quantities of Wheat and Flour sent here is just, & the price has been supported tolerably, though it might have been kept up at 7/. however considering the variety of hands it was in, it was better than expected, especially as many were eager to sell, & some was actually sold at 6/7½; however the steadiness of the other Holders supported the price. You may judge how great our Wants were when we have already imported 181,852 Bushels Wheat & 18,711 Barrels flour & yet the price keeps up.

You are right in one respect about the *Friendship's* Cargo being of good Quality. It was a clean good grain, but white, consequently light, & not so much admired here as the heavier grain which though not so white is preferred greatly & will produce a much larger quantity of Flour. This made it a difficulty with me to support the price at 6/9 when there were so many Cargoes of heavy wheat at market a preferable grain however as nothing could induce me to lower the price I only lost a quicke Sale as I have now nearly sold the whole, though I have not delivered a great deal the purchasers being very slow in taking it away.

The Weather has been favourable of late, but it is not too late to give up all fears of bad before the Summer comes on. I shall keep you constantly advised, but let it be a good Harvest Wheat will not be under 6/9 till November.

No News in politicks. The restraining Bills having both passed you will easily discover the mood of Government which prevails here. We shall be anxiously expecting to hear from America. I am with great Truth [&c.]

Rich Champion

Flour 16/6 common – lower by 6d at least than necessary 18/ fine

I have given a Letter of Introduction to you to a M Barety a Frenchman who is going to America. He is a very ingenious Man & is master of many different kinds of Manufactures any ways connected with Chemistry – The Culture of Silk in particular. He may perhaps be found especially by some of your ingenious people, an useful Man.

1. Morris Papers, HUL

17 Apr.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 17 April 1775

The Generals [Howe, Clinton, Burgoyne] left for Portsmouth the day before yesterday. They were to embark immediately in order to reach their destination.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 268, LC Photocopy.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, APRIL 17 [1775]” ¹

Since my last the *Senegal* sloop sailed from Spithead for America.

1. *London Chronicle*, from Tuesday, April 18 to Thursday, April 20, 1775.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Portland, Spithead [Road]. 17 April 1775

I beg You will acquaint[t their] Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, I have [arrived at] Portsmouth Yesterday Evning; and this [Morning ha]ve hoisted my Flag on board His Majesty[’s Ship] *Portland*, whose State and Condition I here enclose. On Thursday next I mean to have her Comp[any giv]en two Months Advance; and will then proceed, (Winds & Weather permitting) agreeable to their [Lordships Or]ders

The *Pomona* Sloop put back to Spith[ead] Yesterday Ev’ning, for a Supply of Beer; and if it [m]eets their Lordships Approbation, I propose giving Captain

[Henry] Brine Orders to put himself under my Command; to accompany me to the Leeward Islands. I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young.

[Endorsed] 19 Apl Ord sent & Approve of him taking the *Pomona* under his Com. & carrying her with him to the Leed Islands

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

DIARY OF JOHN BRAGG OF WHITEHAVEN, ENGLAND ¹

4th Mo: 17th 1775.

The Ship *Woodcock* Launchd H Jackson built her in the year 1775 by [*sic*, for] Fisher & Bragg ²

1. WPL.

2. Subsequently Bragg completed the above entry with "their first Vessel taken by the americans"

18 Apr.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, APRIL 18 [1775]" ¹

Last night came to town Admiral [James] Young, and this morning his flag was hoisted on board his Majesty's ship the *Portland* at Spithead.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 18 to April 20, 1775.

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA" ¹
[1775]

18th [April] – Rear Admiral [Robert] Duff Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at Newfoundland has the like Orders with respect to the Two abovementioned Acts [of 15 April]; and his attention to that which restrained the Fisheries of the 4. New England Governments was enforced by a subsequent Order of the 22d of May.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

ANDREW FRAZER TO JOHN HOWARD, LORD SUFFOLK ¹

(Copy.)

Dunkirk 18th April 1775

Sr As soon [as] I was honored with your Letter of the 14th Instant desiring to be informed if an English Ship from Virginia loaded with Tobacco had lately put into this Port, I made the strictest enquiries to discover the truth of this Intelligence, and accordingly find that an English Ship about 200 Tons burthen whose name is the *Catherine* Captain Paton Master put into this Port directly from Virginia the 23d of last Month, and landed his Cargo here of about 16000 Staves, and about 60 or 70 Hogsheads of Tobacco as far as I have been able to learn. The number of Staves is easily ascertained as they were put up to sale a few days ago but the real quantity of Tobacco is perhaps only known to the Owner & the Merchants to whom the Cargo was consigned whose Name is Mur-

dock An Irish merchant settled here about 5 years ago. These persons having an Interest to keep the Transactions as secret as possible, it is difficult to come at the knowledge of the exact quantity, and the freedom of the Port spares the necessity of a fair Declaration—However it is now known that Tobacco was brought hither in that Ship, though that part of the Cargo was got on shore in as private a Manner as the nature of the thing could admit of.

This Vessel is still in the Harbour, and is now repairing, nor have any preparations yet been made which indicate a design of sailing from hence soon. Previous to his arrival here, I have been told that Captain Paton put into Portsmouth Harbour for Two or three days, but I know not upon what account.

These Sir are the principal Pieces of Intelligence I have been able to collect relative to this Ship But upon a further examination into this subject and upon conversing with different people in the Tobacco Trade, I find that this is by no means the first Instance of Tobacco's being brought hither directly from America. It has been a practice I understand within the four or five years to clear out Vessels from Virginia & Maryland for St Eustatia with Staves, under which there is concealed a quantity of Tobacco, to which place they seldom go, but proceed directly to some part of the Continent of Europe. I have heard in particular of a Capt. Campbell Master of a Schooner of about 100 Tons Called the *Isabella* who was here twice with a Cargo of Tobacco & Staves during the Course of last year He was equally consigned to Mr Murdock, & by him supplied with Silks and Teas, with which he loaded on his return to America, taking a Clearance from hence for the Island of St Eustatia

Both of these Vessels, the *Isabella* & *Catherine* belong I am told to a Company of Merchants resident at Philadelphia and who had been formerly settled in the Island of Man.

I am &c

signed And^w Frazer

1. Gage Papers, CL.

20 Apr.

SAILING OF THREE BRITISH MAJOR GENERALS FOR AMERICA ¹

Portsmouth, April 20, 1775.

Sailed this day for Boston, the *Cerberus* frigate of 28 guns, Capt. J. Chadds, with the Generals [William] Howe, [Henry] Clinton and [John] Burgoyne – their baggage went on the 5th instant by the *Prosperous Armilla*, Capt. Slater

1. J. Almon, ed., *The Remembrancer or Impartial Repository of Public Events for the Year 1775*. (London, 1776) 62. Hereafter cited as Almon, ed., *Remembrancer*.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, APRIL 18, TO THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1775

London, April 20.

On Tuesday last sailed from Portsmouth the *Cerberus* frigate, with the three Generals, for Boston.

On the 15th instant arrived at Plymouth, from Portsmouth and sailed immediately, the *Senegal* frigate, with dispatches for General [Thomas] Gage at Boston.

24 Apr.VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Portland; Plymouth 24, April 1775

Please to acquaint my Lords Comm[issioners] of the Admiralty, that on the 21st Instt A.M. I Sailed from [the] Road, in Company with His Majesty's Sloop *Pomona*, wh[ose Com]mander I have Ordered to accompany me to Antigu[a] pursuant to their Lordships directions. The 22d the Wi[nd came] to the So Wt & blowes strong, with heavy squalls of Rain [Th]erefore put into Torbay, and Anchored, 'till the Weather mig[ht] moderate. The next morning having the Wind to Noward [got] under Weigh, (in Company with the *Pomona*) to proceed [on] my Voyage; pursuant to their Lordships Orders, but have [to]day again met with a Strong So Wt Wind, and the same disagreeable Weather as before; which has Occasioned my pu[tting into] Plymouth Sound; which, I shall leave, and proceed [to Sea] the Moment Wind & Weather will permit me to do so.

Inclosed, I have transmitted the State & Condition [of] His Majesty's Ships *Portland* & *Pomona*. I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

25 Apr."EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, APRIL 25 [1775]" ¹

Yesterday arrived his Majesty's ship *Portland*, Admiral [James] Young, from Portsmouth for Antigua; and the *Pomona* sloop of war from ditto. .

1. *London Chronicle*, April 29 to May 2, 1775.**28 Apr.**"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, APRIL 28, [1775]" ¹

This day sailed . . . for the West Indies, the *Portland* and the *Pomona* men of war.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 29 to May 2, 1775.M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 28 April 1775

Three corvettes are being commissioned for a foreign destination. I suppose that two of them will be used along the coast of Africa according to what Myd. Rochford told me. Order has just been given recently at Portsmouth to place the crew of a frigate being laid up on board a guard ship in order to help fit out the ship *Romney* destined for Newfoundland and according to the rumor there, the crews on the ships expected anyday from the Cape and that will be laid up upon their return will not be paid off. These events seem to indicate that they intend to bring out this year as last year a fleet of observation. I believe also, My lord, that the encouragements offered to hasten the return of the vessels now fishing in Newfoundland could have the object, among others, to secure a number of sailors in case it would be deemed necessary for the service of the Royal Navy.

These measures seem to indicate the suspicion on the part of the Ministry that they may have to prepare for war towards the middle of the summer. It has already been affirmed to me that Myd. Sandwich, as he rendered account of the Spanish ship commissions, was of the opinion that England too, should prepare for war. Although this advice, which will always be held by Myd Sandwich, has not yet been adopted, I shall take the greatest care to watch more and more the movements of this country.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 509, 269, LC Photocopy.

3 May

LORD DARTMOUTH TO GEORGE JAMES BRUERE, GOVERNOR OF BERMUDA ¹

(No 8)

Whitehall 3d May 1775

Sir I have received your Letters No. 13. 14. & 15. and have laid them before the King.

The present State of His Majesty's Service in North America precludes for the present all hope of our being able to spare any part of the Kings Troops for the service of the Bermuda Islands or of making them a Station for one of the small Sloops of War, But I will not fail at a proper time to attend to your propositions on those heads.

I am &ca

Dartmouth.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 37/36, 808. See also Bruere's letter of February 1, 1775

4 May

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 4 May 1775.

The Lords Commrs of His Majesty's Treasury having transmitted to my Lords Commrs of the Admty Copy of a Letter from Hamburgh, relating to a Dutch Hoy at Cuxhaven laden with Arms & Gun Powder, and an Extract of a Letter from Lisbon, concerning a Clandestine Trade suspected to be carrying on between Portugal & America; I am commanded by their Lordships to send you herewith Copies of the same for your information, & to signify their direction to you to take such steps as shall appear to you to be proper to detect the illicit Trade said to be carrying on between Europe & America. I am &c

(By the Packet the same day.)

P. S.

Duplicate sent the 2d June 1775 (By the *Raven*)

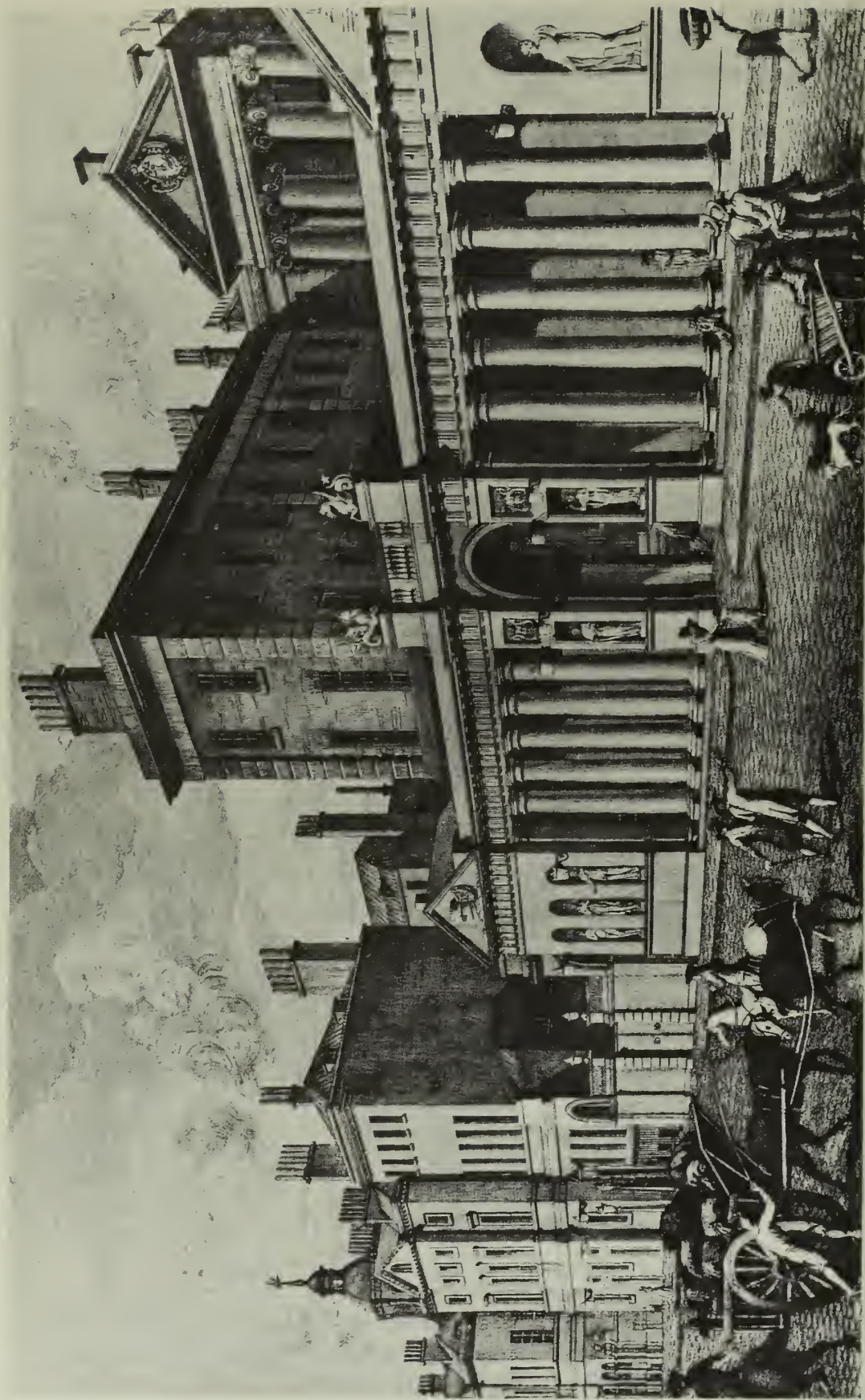
1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 372-373, NYHS Transcript.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 4: May 1775.

I have received & communicated to my Lords Commrs of the Admty your Letter of the 19th March last, informing them that you have given directions to the Commanders of His Majts Ships & Vessels under your Command to keep



Admiralty Office, London, 1775.

the strictest look out, not only for the Vessels of which I sent you Intelligence, but all others carrying on contraband or illicit Trade; and that notwithstanding the Kings Ships & Vessels have been very active all the Winter, no Seizures of any Consequence have been made. I am &c

(By the Packet) same day.

P. S.

Duplicate sent the 2d June 1775 (By the *Raven*)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 373, NYHS Transcript.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 4 May 1775.

I have received & communicated to my Lords Commrs of the Admty your Letter of the 4th March last, with it's Inclosures, informing them of your proceedings; And in return I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you, that an Extract of your said Letter acquainting them with your intentions to send the *Asia* to New York, as Lieut Govr [Cadwallader] Colden had requested you to send a large Ship thither, together with a Copy of the said Lieut Governor's Letter to you, giving an account of the Disposition of the People of that Province, have been sent to the Earl of Dartmouth, for the King's Information.

Their Lordships also direct me to acquaint you, that they will recommend to the favorable Attention of the Lords of the Treasury, the Expence of prosecuting & Defending the Appeals from the Sentences of the Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court, respecting the *Abigail* & *Industry* Schooners. I am &c

(By the Packet) same day –

P. S.

Duplicate sent the 2d June 1775 – (by the *Raven*)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 374, NYHS Transcript.

15 May

WILLIAM LEE TO COLONEL THOMAS LUDWELL LEE ¹

My dear Brother

London 15 May 75

'Tis a long time indeed since you have favd me with a letter. You have inclosed Acct Sales for 4 hhds of Tobo recd P the *Friendship* Roman nett proceeds £20.4.8 to your credit which taking all things into consideration must be esteemed tolerable good sales; however the Tobo that comes home this year will nett nearly as much again as that did which came here last year, so that you will not lose by stopg the exportn one year. As it evidently be for your own advantage I shall expect a large consignent this season from you & if my friends do not exert themselves, I shall be badly off, having sent out 2 large ships. – The Public Newspapers give you enough of Politics & the Ministers by Acts of Parliat, Addresses & the Armament sent to America, speak too plainly that nothing but the Sword shall decide the contest with you. You have been declared Rebels, by the Parliat & K[ing]. as Rebels, you know what you have to rely on. I am perfectly persuaded, if America is firm, & will boldly support her rights to the last extremity, it will never be in the power of these wicked and Blood-thirsty Ministers to enslave her Sons. Unanimity among the Colonies will absolutely insure success. Let not

the whole Burthen fall on any one, two three or four Colonies. A general good must be obtained by a general exertion. Mrs Lee, her Patriot Son W.L. & our Br A[rthur] (who was called to the Bar last week) are well & join me in affecte Love to our dear sister & the Children –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON ¹

Dear Sir!

London 15 May 75

According to my promise by Capt Brown I now transmit you sales for 4 hhds Tobo recd P the *Friendship* Roman Nt procds £35.14.1 to yr credt which must prove satisfactory, as I have no doubt of their being much better than what you have recd for Tobo last year. As I apprehended, the price here has risen considerably so that what you send home this year will come to a fine market, therefore shall be happy to have it in my power to please my friends by returning them agreeable sales, and I hope to share considerably in your favr either by Capt Brown or Norwood. You have the Principio Compys quarterly acct to Xmas last, by which there is a small balce of £5.18. 10¾ due to yr late Brs Estate, but then it appears that the Compy owe £300 by Note to Smith, Bevan & Co. – Mr Russel sent very little Iron home last year, nor do I find enough is expected this season to give any prospect of a dividend for 12 Mos to come. As to Politics, little can be said on that head, since the Ministers have determined that the sword shall decide the contest. I have no doubt of your success if you are united & determined to stand or fall together, which I take for granted will be the case. You are contending for every thing that is dear in this World, Liberty, Property & Life, therefore I expect you will act as worthy descendants of Englishmen. My best respects attend Mrs Washington & your Family being with much esteem &c –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO RODHAM KENNER ¹

Dear Sir!

London 15 May 1775

Inclosed you have Acct Sales for yr 10 hhds of Tobo recd P *Friendp* Roman nt procds £80.14.10 to yr credt, also sales for 2 hhds recd P same conveyance belonging to the Estate of Mrs Cath. Monroe nt £8.6.2 to the credt of said Esta. I do not fear these sales giving full satisfaction when compared with those from other houses. With confidence I say your own are good – the Esta Tobo was uncommonly light & of very indiffert quality.

Having sent out 2 large Ships this year I shall suffer much unless my friends exert themselves a good deal, but from yr. steady kindness I have good reason to expect every assistance, which will always be gratefully acknowledged. Within this month past Tobo has risen considerably here, so that the Shiprs will send their Tobo to a good markt & that which comes home latest will probably sell best. You must know by this time that our wicked ministers are gone quite mad. Is it possible that the Americans can bear with patience such repeated & wanton insults & oppressions? every complaint instead of being redressed, produces a fresh grievance & injury. The Magazines &c will shew you the Petitions &c of

the Merchts &c & the London Remonstrance on American grievances. The K[ing] & his Ministers have publicly proclaimed you Rebels – Every body knows what Rebels have alone to trust to. – The Ld Mayor very justly observed that a *successful* Rebellion was always called a *Revolution* & from his confidence in the Virtue & Fortitude of the Americans, he was not at a loss to determine what that wou'd be hereafter called, which the Ministers were now pleased to term Rebellion. I cannot suppose that any dangers will deter you from persevering to the last extremity in defence of yr Liberty & with unanimity you must succeed. The Ministers have sent such violent orders to Genl [Thomas] Gage that we every day expect advice of a genl engagement in Massachusetts Bay. The Scotch Gentn have got advice of the proceedings of yr last Congress at Richmond; one of your flattering resolutions to his Excellency, is very different from what we have been taught to expect, as the Ministerial runners in the City had abt 10 daies ago reported that Governmt had recd advice of a plan deliberately settled in Virga to seize the Governors person & all the K[ing]'s officers, & keep them as hostages for the safety of such Americans as Genl Gage has certainly recd orders to take up & send over for tryal. The Eyes of all Europe are upon America & the Ministers attend much to the motions in Virga for they seem to think *you will fight*; wch they have been taught to believe the N.E. people will not do. Indeed the conduct of Virga & New Englnd will decide this business, but success will be more easy & certain if all the Colonies are united. Wonderful preparations are makg in France & Spain; with the latter we shall certainly come to an open Rupture, very soon after a blow is struck in America. In the mean time I pray you to assist my ships in their loadg as much as you possibly can. Best respects attend Mrs Kenner & am & –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO JOHN TURBERVILLE ¹

Dear Sir!

London 15 May 1775

Yr favr of Feby I recd P Montgomery & in consequence thereof have honor'd yr bill to Mr. Hyndman. You have now yr Acct Sales for 8 hhds Tobo recd P Roman Nt Proceeds £59.17.11 to yr credt which I dare say will give you full satisfaction & shall hope will induce you to enlarge your consignmts this year considerably, expecially as the price of Tobo here [h]as risen much. Whenever the American dispute is settled & the trade restored to a regular course there will not be much difficulty in settlg the Ball: due Messrs Russell & Molleson. 'Tis unlucky yr orders for sending yr son to the Jerseys, did not come to hand 'till long after Capt Brown sail'd; however as I understand he has arrived safe & well you can easily send him there from Virga, & I hope the example of the school together with his growing older, will reform his wildness. Be pleased to remember us to him. – Having sent out two large ships this year I shall get into a disagreeable situation unless my friends exert themselves, which I hope they will do & particularly yourself, for which I shall ever hold myself much obliged. Mrs Lee & her son W. L. are very well, so is my Br A[rthur], who was last week called to the Bar. We all join in sincere regard & am &c

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO MRS. HANNAH CORBIN ¹

My dear Sister!

London 15 May 1775

I now send yr Acct Sales for the 9 hhds of Tobo you kindly consigned to my care by the *Friendship* Roman Nt. Procds £46.6.9 to yr credt wch considering the times are good sales, but still for your sake I wish it had been in my power to have got you twice as much. While yr non importation continues it will be impossible for me to send yr goods, but if that shd ever end, they shall be sent P the first oppty & in the mean time, you shd: endeavour to make the necessary cloathing for yr self & Family at home. God only knows when the unhappy differences between G:B: & America will end, but in so laudable a contest it is surely the part of a virtuous mind to submit with patience & fortitude to every inconvenience that may arise from it, for surely none can be so great as the loss of Liberty. With common industry you cannot want Meat & Rayment, tho' it may be coarse, but what am I to do here, where neither can be obtained without hard money? however I shall be content if America is but Free. Mrs Lee & her little patriot W.-L - are very well & with me waft our best love & good wishes for you & the dear children. Our Br A[rthur] was last week called to the Bar where I hope he will make a Figure. Heaven protect you & make you happy I am &

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO WILLIAM TRIPLETT ¹

Sir

London 15 May 1775

I have recd your favor of Aprl 6th covering A Blairs secd dft: for £150 on Spiers & Co which I have sent to Glasgow for acceptce & if paid shall be to the credt of Triplett & Thornton. The former dft you mention of £300 is paid & to the crdt of T. & T. indeed yr remittans have not been so full as coud have been wished & I fear you have lost the oppty of remitg: amply to a very considerable advantage. Had you bot 1000 hhds at 2P/ 6 Curry as I advised by the *Caroline* Capt Blackwell in Decr last, you woud have made a small Fortune at one stroke, for the price of Tobo has risen very considerably here within these 6 wks: & in my opinion it will rise still higher. As to shippg goods, that business is at prest totally at a stop, but shd the trade ever revive, I shall have no kind of objection to continue our correspondence within the reasonable limits you mention, but according to my settled plan, security will be expected for what is advanced which I suppose will be easy for you to give as you propose to confine yr self within reasonable & prudent bounds. I shall be greatly disapointed & perhaps be put to exceeding inconvenience if you do not ship largely this year, because I have sent out two large ships, relying on yr assistance & that of my other mercantile correspondents, & knowing you wd have recd very considerable advantages by purchasg largely in proper time. I still have confidence in yr generosity not to let me suffer, I am & -

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO PETER PRESLEY THORNTON ¹

Dear Sir!

London 15 May 1775

Be pleased to receive yr sales for 8 hhds of Tobo recd P the *Friendship* Roman nt proceeds £50.14.10 to yr credt which I hope will please as you may be assured of my utmost endeavors to get the best possible price for you & dare say these sales will at least, equal what you get from other houses. Tobo has risen here very much lately & I do expect the price will be higher still, but as this advance arises chiefly from yr agreemt: to stop the exportn; it ought not to operate in Virga to break that engagemt; & the surest way to prevent any murmurings on that head, is to cease the cultivation for one year at least, which will be attended with this good consequence that every person will have more time & leisure to cultivate & manufacture materials for necessary cloathing, without which, it will be difficult to persevere in the noble contest you are engaged in for the preservation of yr Liberties. You have a Magazine &c inclosed that will shew you, America has some warm friends here, but still your chief dependance shd be on yourselves – I hope my ships will this year will meet with your warmest assistance for which you will always receive my grateful acknowledgements & shall ever remain & –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO HENRY LEE ¹

Dear Sir!

London 15 May 75

I recd yr favr P Montgomerie wch came in time to procure paymt of yr bill to Duncan Campbell, for I wrote you long ago that it is not my general rule either to accept or pay bills without advice. You have have inclosed Acct Sales for 5 hhds Tobo recd P the *Friendship*, Roman, nt procds £71.14.8 also sales for 2 hhds recd P the *James* Capt Robinson nt procds £22.9.4 which sums are to yr credt – These sales will certainly please you & I shd hope will induce you to ship all you possibly can this year & to use yr influence in procuring other consignmts to me. *I am sincerely concerned for the loss at Stratford especially as times like these “the Post of Honor is a private station.” *(The sales for the Hhd No 11 by Roman, are as you desired made out in the name of Mr John Whaley & sent to him.) – From such Ministers, as the Almighty at present permits to Scourge this Country, I wou’d not receive much less ask a favor. Their intention of enslavg America is now alas too evident. All accomodations are at an end for they have determined the Sword [alone] shall decide, therefore you know what to depend on. I have not a doubt of yr success, if you persevere, since besides yr own strength the Spaniards will certainly be upon us, as soon as the Blow is fairly struck in America. Mrs Lee & her little Patriot Willm Ludwell are well & send their Aunt [love?] I am & –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO DOCTOR WILLIAM FLOOD ¹

Dear Sir!

London 15 May 1775

I send you inclosed Acct Sales for 2 hhds of Tobo recd P the *Friendship* Roman Nt procds £11.15.4 to yr credt. As this is but a small sum when com-

pared to the large advance I am in for you, I cannot help expressing my hopes that you will ship considerably this year at least sufficient to pay the Ballce that is due. In this hope I am confirmed by a confidence in yr honor, & as this is the last year, in my opinion that commerce will ever be card on between G. B & America as it has heretofore been let me intreat you to make a full remitce while it can be done. This I can request for yr own sake, as the price of Tobo has risen here of late very considerably wch will be of advantage to yrself:, & that you may not be liable to the same censure wth our vile & wicked ministers of involving the *innocent* with the *suspected* in the same heavy punishment. I am &

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO REVEREND THOMAS SMITH ¹

Dear Sir.

London 15 May 75

Inclosed you have sales for 1 hhd of Tobo recd P the *Friendship*, Roman nt procds £6.9.4 to yr credt which for once will I hope prove quite satisfactory; but shd. it not, the only remedy I can think of, is to advise you to ship 2 hhds this year, for as the price here [h]as risen very much of late, you may thereby make; amends for any former losses; & as your charge of delinquency has hitherto laid heaviest on your old Fd he ought in Justice to have the largest share of yr favr that he may have an oppty of redeeming his lost share of yr esteem. I take it for granted that you will be Chaplain general to the Virga Forces. God speed you, & render you successful in the Noble Contention is the earnest prayer of yr affect &c –

P.S. my best respects attend yr good Lady & Family

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO NATHANIEL HARRISON ¹

Dear Sir!

London 15 May 1775

I recd P the *Friendship* Roman 2 hhds of yr Tobo for the consignmt of which am much obliged & now inclose you Acct Sales for the same Nt. procds £15.1.4 to yr credt. The goods you orderd cannot as yet be sent on acct of yr non importation agreemt. You will oblige me by saying how the Ballce of yr protestd draft on A Bacon wch was due when I left Virga 1768 has been discharged. If your other engagemts will permit I shall take it very kind in you to assist this year my 2 ships the *Adventure* Capt Brown loadg in Rap[ahannoc]k & Poto[mac] & the *Prospect* Capt Norwood who is to load in York river; you can hardly lose by shipg this year as the price of Tobo wthin [h]as risen very considerably of late. I am & –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO WALKER TOMLIN ¹

Dear Sir

London 15 May 1775

You have inclosed Acct Sales for 1 hhd of Tobo recd P the *Friendship*, Roman nt procds £6.3.5 to yr credt which hope will please. Your future con-

signmt will be thankfully accepted particularly this year as I have sent out 2 large ships the *Adventure* Capt Browne & the *Prospect* Capt Norwood to load for me. I know it is in your power to give them great assistance in doing which you will particularly oblige me. There is still a considerable Bal: due from Hipkins & Tomlin, which Mr Hipkins does not seem disposed to pay, as I have not heard from him for near 12 Mos past, therefore am obliged to request your interposition, that it may be finally settled either by Cash, Bills or Tobo before the exportation is stopd. Mr E. Browne or my Br Colo F. L. Lee are authorized to settle the Acct fully. I am &c

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO DOCTOR GEORGE STEPTOE ¹

Dear Sir!

London 15 May 1775

You have inclosed Acct. Sales for 1 hhd Tobo recd P *Friendship*, Roman nt procds £2.13.7 to yr credt. However small these sales may appear, when you consider the uncommon lightness & the general low price last year there is no room for complaint, however 'tis in your power to get ample amends by shipp largely this year since the price lately his risen very much & therefore hope for your kind assistance in the loadg my ships the *Adventure* & *Prospect* for which I shall esteem myself greatly obliged. You will be so good to give me an answr to mine P the *Adventure* respecting your Br Thos affairs, that I may know how to act for his benefit I am &

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO LEROY PEACHY ¹

Sir!

London 15 May 75

You have inclosed Acct Sales for 2 hhds of Tobo recd P Roman nt procds £10.6.11 to yr credt which hope will meet your approbation as they bring you more than the country price last year. The Country Cloth you sent over will be finished stampg in a little time but I do not suppose it will be proper for me to send it over to you while your non importation agreement continues. Having sent out 2 large ships this year, The *Adventure* Capt Brown and the *Prospect* Capt Norwood, I hope to receive your kind consignments by one if not by both of them, by which you will probably gain a considerable advantage as the Price of Tobacco has risen here of late very much I am with regard & –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO COLONEL FRANCIS THORNTON ¹

Dear Sir!

London 15 May 1775

Inclosed you have Acct Sales for yr 8 hhds Tobo recd P the *Friendship*, Roman nt procds £66.14.10 to yr credt which from their goodness will I hope induce you to continue yr favrs to me. The sales shd have been sent some time ago had there been any convenient oppy. The price of Tobo here has risen very considerably within this month or six weeks, so that what comes home this year

will come to a good market. My best compts attend your good Lady & Family & am &c –

[per] Capt Montgomery

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS. The letter book is sprinkled from page 133 to 149 with brief single paragraph letters similar to the above and all dated May 15, 1775. In addition to the above to Col. Thornton, Lee wrote that day to John Eustace, James Whaley, Robert Carter, Rev. Samuel Smith McCroskey, Robert Clark Jacob, Kendall Lee, Reuben Jordan, James Steptoe, Thomas Chilton, Dr. Thomas Thompson, Mrs. Hannah Sturman, Joseph Lane, Rawleigh Colston, and Adam Mitchell. Under the letter to Mitchell, Lee noted "a Copy of the above" went to Benjamin Weeks, Peter Smith, Jr., Peter McLanahan, Philip Smith, George Edwards, Charles Lee, Thomas Gaskins, Jr., Fleet Cox, Maximilian Robinson and Daniel Tebs. Each letter enclosed an account of sales for from one to eight hogsheads of tobacco received in the ship *Friendship*, Captain Romans.

16 May

WILLIAM LEE TO JOHN ANDREW MEYER, MERCHANT IN POOLE, ENGLAND ¹

Sir!

London 16 May 75

I yesterday recd yr esteem'd favor of the 9th Curr't & am much obliged for yr information of the prices of Tobo with you, which are by no means equal to the price here, so that a consignmt of that article to yr market at this time must bring a great loss. From the political prospects of Affairs in Europe & America Tobo must rise still higher. You have inclosed Mr John Finch's Excha on Messrs W: Burrowes & Son Merchts in Hambro' for £46 sterlg: a 34/3 Flem. PL Sterg a 2½ Usances which please present for acceptance. If 'tis not honor'd let it be only noted, but not protested for Non Acceptance, of which you shall be farther advised when I know its Fate.

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

19 May

WILLIAM LEE TO RICHARD LEE ¹

My dear Sir!

London 19 May 75

I am greatly obliged by yr sevl favrs of Jany 30 Feby 13 Mar 7 & Aprl 13 – The loss at Stratford is what we must all feel, especially at such times as these, when it would be indelible infamy to ask any favor of such wicked Ministers as rule this Country. A Spanish War is greatly talked of & in my opinion will take place as soon as a blow is struck in America – will you think me prudent to insure yr 30 hhds of Tobo in Brown at ys [this] time or wait 'till the event is enevitable & then give twice or perhaps four times as much Prem's I will act for you as I do for myself & with this you must surely be content. You have inclosed Acct Sales for yr 32 hhds Tobo recd P the *Friendship*, Roman nt procds – £224.3.11 to yr credt. These sales cannot displease you as on the whole they must be much better than what you will receive from any other quarter. – You know my earnest willingness to serve you on all occasions & tho' I conceive these are dangerous times to make purchases, yet if my 2 Ships the *Adventure* & *Prospect* get loaded, I can so far assist you as £400 or £500 will go, provided you do not draw till the Oct'r Court, at 60 or 90 daies sight & use yr utmost endeavors to keep others from drawg. At the same time I shall expect you to be ansble for the Balce which G. Fauntleroy

owes me with the Intst for which I now inclose you an order on him that shd pass in paymt for his land. Mr Norton has demanded paymt of the Underwriters here for the Tea that was destroyed out of his ship the *Virga* Capt Esten, you will therefore oblige me much by getting full & particular information respectg this business & send me a Certificate thereof as soon as possible. It was understood here that the Tea was destroyed with W: H. Nortons consent in order to appease the indignation that possessed the Gentlemen on Acct of the Tea being sent; But the Capt's protest says it was done by the force & violence of a lawless & ungovernable people or words to the same effect. The best method will be to get a state of the whole proceedings signd by Mr Nelson Chairman of the York Committee – The Ball of G. Fauntleroy's acct wch you have inclosed with an order to pay the same to you for my use is £12.8.1 with Int thereon from May 20. 1773, till paid. I trust you will exert yrself to get my ships loaded this year. As to Politics you have been already informed & the papers inclosed will tell you what has been lately done in refusing to receive the New York Petition. Indeed nothing will do with our Ministers but fighting, so prepare for the worst. Give me all the intelligence you can & believe me always your most affecte &c –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO JOHN ANDREW MEYER ¹

Sir!

London 19 May 1775

I wrote you P last Post to which be pleased to refer, & now inclose you Mr Edwd Linde's order on Mr John Christian Wegener for 2 hhds manufactd Tobo weing 1084 lbs nt which were shipd to him in Feby last P the Hambro' *Commerce*, Otto Paul Moller, Master & if they are sold for nt procds of the same. Shou'd the Tobo be deld to you, please to dispose thereof to the best advantage & remit the procds to me as soon as convenient & if the money is paid by Mr Wegener you will of course remit it. You will please to let me know yr proceeding herein. I am &c

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO COLONEL LANDON CARTER ¹

Dear Sir!

London 19 May 75

As I have no business to write on to you, still I may give you a line to repose on in a hot afternoon in yr cool passage. The Magazine & Papers inclosed will furnish some amusement & if you want any more of the Political kind my Br F. L. Lee will furnish you with as much as I know. Taking it for granted that you will send me at least 40 hhds of Tobo this year & besides by yr influence to procure me above 100 more, from others. I will report a line or two on public affairs. I call it reporting because you must be very sensible of the inability of our profligate & abandond ministers to carry their schemes into execution of enslavg America provided you have but common fortitude to support yr Liberties. The Ministers are determined to try yr metal & the *Ultima Ratio Regem* is to settle the dispute. You have been called Cowards by a Colo [James] Grant that commanded & was taken prisoner at Fort de Quesne in the H of. C.; & by Ld Sandwich in the H of Lords; you have been declared guilty of High Treason by

the 2 houses of Parliat in their address to the King & by his Majesty indirectly accused of Rebellion. Under these circumstances common sense points out the only reasonable line of conduct. Force, of course shoud meet with Force. The Spaniards will surely be upon' us very soon – But at .all events you must not yield yr Liberties, even 'till the last gasp. If you do, I will no longer be a Virgan or yr dutiful Godson

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Portland: Funchal Road; Island of Madeira 19th May 1775

Please to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that I arrived at Madeira, in His Majesty's Ship *Portland* (with the *Pomona* Sloop in Company) the 12th Instant; and having now compleatly Watered both Ships; and taken on board a Sufficient Supply of Wine; I shall this Ev'ning proceed on my Voyage to Antigua.

Inclosed I have transmitted, the State and Condition of His Majesty's Ships *Portland* & *Pomona* I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

20 May

WILLIAM LEE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

My dear Brother!

London 20 May 75

Inclosed you have Accts Sales for yr 6 hhds Tobo recd P the *Friendship* Roman nt procds £47.1.2 to yr credt, also Sales for 8 hhds of Colo Geo. Lees Estate nt prods £56.4.4 to credt of sd: Este & sales for 4 hhds of our late Brs nt procds £32.17. to his credt These Sales are good – indeed few of the Shippers in Roman can complain, as his Cargoe averages £7 P hhd, which I fancy hardly any will do from Poto[mac] or Rap[hannoc]k last year. You have credt for £104 for the Money you paid Roman. Your Boys are well, their last half years Accts I expect every day when shall forward yr Acct Currt – We hear the Scotch are buyg up all the Tobo in the Country, surely no one will trust them without the hard money at this time. Bills are not, at least shd not in common prudence be taken in times like these; you surely understand me & will improve on the hint. The price of Tobo has lately risen here very much, yet from the Scotch Manoeuvres in Virga I am somewhat apprehensive my two large ships sent out, will come badly off unless you, or Br Loudoun, the Squire & other Friends exert themselves very strenuously which I trust you will do, as least to prevent them from comg home dead freighted. I am all in the Dark for no one has mentioned yet, even where the *Adventure* is to lye, as to the *Prospect* God knows, what will be done with her. Last week our Br A[rthur] was called to the Bar & will no doubt write abt the Vacancy in Council. Mrs Lee & her little Patriot Wm Ludwell are well. – As to Politics the papers &c you will inform you, I think it impossible, now that the American dispute can be settled without Blows & I

hope you are prepared unitedly to support yr Liberties to the utmost extremity
God bless you all Farewell –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO JOHN TAYLOE ¹

Dear Sir

London 20 May 75

Having little business to write about have chiefly to enquire after your Health & that of yr good Family. The Mags & papers inclosed will give you the political intelligence which cannot be pleasing as our Ministers still continue obdurate agst America & every day expect to hear of an engagem[en]tt in Mass. Bay as they have long ago sent orders to Genl [Thomas] Gage to go to Blows immediately. It is imagined here that all the Colonies will support New Engd to the last extremity in which case they must succeed at last especially as a Spanish War seems almost inevitable. My two large ships sent out this Year will come badly off unless you kindly give them great assistance & my other friends exert themselves, all which I fondly hope will be done. Our joint good wishes attend yrself, Mrs Tayloe & your worthy Family I am &c

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO EDWARD BROWNE ¹

Dr Sir!

London 20 May 75

I have not recd a letter from you but that from Lawsons Bay. I hope you are not unmindful of the main chance, vizt providing for the dispatch of Brown & Norwood & getting remittances, had you struck for 500 or 100 hhds of Tobo when you first arrived it wd have been lucky at the Aprl price of 25/. I fear a loss, unless no Tobo is made this summer. Romans sales are all sent, his cargoe averages £7 P hhd wch you may be boasted of. The James River ships are dropping in, not much is at market, but there is no demand; Herries bot of Gist at 3¾ but it was a trick to sell his own 2000 hhds which Willing & Co have bot for him in Virga A Spanish War is expected. The contents of the inclosed Lre shoud be known at least that the demand has been made here & I desire you to get an authenticated Acct under the hand of some Gentn of the whole proceedgs in destroying Estens Tea. We understand the acquiescence in Virga was to curry favor there & then a demand is made on the Underwriters here for the loss. – this shd be known – consult F. L. Lee but you need not let anybody know that I am an underwriter. Let me know who ships that I may know how to accept Bills. I have a bad headache so farewell &c

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE ¹

My dr Br

London 20 May 75

I thank you for yr Lre from Richmond Town which is the only one I recd since Brown arrived. For Heavens sake take care of Brown & Norwood & get them loaded & get what remittances made that you can before the Flame

burst out which we expect to hear of every day from N. Engd. The Papers &c sent herewith will show you our sentiments here. The parcel of prints & history of Cavallier you will distribute quickly, particular the history in the back Country. My head aches greatly. Take all the possible care you can of my affairs. Our best love to Greenokes & believe me most Affecly &c –

Tobo has risen much here of late. Romans Cargoe Averages £7 P hhd tell the Squire this –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

22 May

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL
SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

By &c

Whereas we have ordered Jno Montagu Esqr (Rear Adml of the Blue & Commander in Chief of His Majts Ships & Vessels employed and to be employed at and about the Island of Newfoundland the Islands of Madelaine & Anticosti and upon the Coast of Labrador from the River St John, to the entrance of Hudsons Straits) to apply to you, if there should be occasion, for a reinforcement of Ships & Vessels to enable him to execute the Service on which he is employed; You are hereby required & directed, upon receiving such Application, to send such a reinforcement to him as he may stand in need of accordingly. Given &c 22d May 1775.

By &c. P S

J Buller
Palmerston
H Palliser

Sent by the *Raven* Sloop.

Duplicate sign'd. S_____P._____H. Palliser Sent by the *Viper* Sloop.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 438, NYHS Transcript.

24 May

WILLIAM LEE TO FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE ¹

My dear Br

London 24 May 1775

Yesterday I had the Honor of being chosen Alderman for one of the most respectable Wards in the City of London. This post is for Life, Honorable, & attended wth very little expence. The paper will shew you the rest. The Scotch we understand are buying up all the Tobo in the Country, surely no one will trust them without the Cash, for their bills are dangerous – Let them get yr property into their hands & then see what will be the case. Let Mr [Edward] Browne know all the above – urge & assist him as much as possible to procure paymts & remittances – those who wont pay, get from them bonds & security if you can – God bless you all & believe me &c –

I trust America will be steady & unanimous in support of her Liberty, let the consequence be what it will. Do you know one John Hipkins? I fancy he must

be a notorious Sharper – he is getting all the Planters in Essex to draw bills on me at sight. This Puppies plan is no doubt to injure me if he can, therefore it wd be proper to stop him in his Carreer. A Bill this day appeared on me at Sight pble to himself supposed to be drawn by James Bray. It is protested for want of advice & because I do not believe the Signature to be the hand writg of James Bray. It appears to me that the Bill is both written & signed by John Hipkins himself. What a noble pair Sam & John are.

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

29 May

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

By &c.

Having order'd Lieut. [John] Hallum, who commands His Majts Storeship *Adventure* (by whom you will receive this) to put himself under your command & follow your Orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required and directed to take him and the said Storeship under your command accordingly, and employ them in such manner as you shall judge best for His Majesty's Service entrusted to your Care. Given &c the 29th May 1775.

By &c. P. S.

Sandwich
Palmerston
H. Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 454, NYHS Transcript.

30 May

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 30th May 1775

The Navy Board having represented to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that you have frequent occasions to order supplies of Stores from Halifax to Boston, and that it will be for His Majesty's Service, to send this Year a supply of Stores for Halifax in His Majesty's Ship the *Adventure*; and proposed that she be fitted as a Storeship, commanded by a Lieutenant, and established with the Complement of Men and Guns mentioned on the other side hereof, and be ordered to remain in the Country under your Orders, to be employed in carrying such Stores from Halifax to Boston, or otherwise as you may judge most for the Service; and their Lordships having, in consequence thereof, ordered the said Ship to be fitted as a Storeship, with the beforementioned establishment of Men and Guns, and directed Lieutenant [John] Hallum (whom they have appointed to command her) to proceed to Halifax, and having delivered to the Storekeeper there, the Stores with which he is charged, agreeable to their consignment proceed to Boston, and follow your Orders for his further proceedings carrying with him from Halifax such Stores as the Storekeeper there may have directions to send to Boston, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith And am &c

P: S:

(By Lieutenant Hallum of the *Adventure* Storeship)

Establishment of Officers and Men

1 Lieutenant	1 Carpenter
1 Master	1 Surgeon
1 Midshipman	1 Servant to the Lieutenant
1 Clerk and Steward	1 Ditto to the Master
1 Boatswain	30 Able Seamen
1 Gunner	—
	40
	—

Establishment of Guns

Carriage Guns 4 pounders.....	10
Swivels	8

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 415, 417, NYHS Transcript.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, MAY 27, TO TUESDAY, MAY 30, 1775

London. [May 30.]

Yesterday morning some dispatches arrived at Lord Dartmouth's office from General [Thomas] Gage at Boston, brought by a ship arrived at Bristol from that province.¹ They were forwarded by a messenger to his Majesty at Kew.

From the *Essex Gazette*, printed at Salem, in New England.

[Here is inserted the account given by the *Essex Gazette* of Tuesday, April 25, of the engagement at Lexington and Concord]

Yesterday stock fell one and a half per cent. on account of the above news.

1. The dispatches were probably duplicates of those of March 28, 1775, which had been received in England on May 2, 1775.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, MAY 30 [1775]"¹

This afternoon a vessel from the Isle of Wight arrived here, the Captain says that a vessel lay at the back of the above island, which came with dispatches from General [Thomas] Gage,² which they had put on shore that morning; and that she would lie there two or three days before she came up to Spithead; for which reason was not mentioned, nor was anything to be got from the people relating to the affairs at Boston.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 30 to June 1, 1775.

2. The dispatches were not from General Gage, but for the American agents in London, and the vessel was the *Quero*, Captain John Derby, from Salem.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOHN IRWIN¹

[Extract]

Pall Mall May 30th 1775

The news from America occasioned a great Stir among us yesterday, by the first report I was afraid the Troops had misbehaved, but upon reading the ac-

count from Salem I was Satisfy'd that the Party after having done what they were order'd at Concord, marchd back towards Boston, and possibly may have lost some few men. however the Bostonians are in the right to make the Kings Troops the aggressors and to Claim a victory. Gage's account is not yet arrived, he sent his Letters by a merchant Ship laden with goods, the Bostonians sent their Story by a Ship in Ballast, the Master of which brought no Letters whatever, but appeard in London yesterday morning with the account you will see printed, and a *London Evening Post* Extraordinary was published last night to spread the Alarm. it is Strange to see the many joyfull faces upon this Event, thinking, I conclude, that Rebellion will be the means of Changing the Ministry, in my poor opinion this Blow, if follow'd up, will soon bring that province into order, as I must suppose the Officer who Commanded the Party did not without necessity attack those armed men who presented themselves to him; It is said that a Pistol accidentally fired occasioned all the mischief; I am impatient for the true and the full account. Lord Percy encamped that night some little way from Boston, so that he was not afraid of his pursuers, as they term themselves I have seen no Ministers, but I have seen Governour [Thomas] Hutchinson, and he agrees with me in opinion, and says the hurry they were in of sending a ship express from Salem convinces him that the story is misrepresented for purposes of the faction there.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

London Gazette, SATURDAY, MAY 27 TO TUESDAY, MAY 30, 1775

Secretary of State's Office, Whitehall, May 30, 1775.

A report having been spread, and an Account having been printed and published, of a Skirmish between some of the People in the Province of Massachusetts Bay and a Detachment of his Majesty's Troops; it is proper to inform the Publick, that no Advices have as yet been received in the American Department of any such Event.

There is reason to believe that there are Dispatches from General [Thomas] Gage on board *The Sukey*, Captain Brown, which, though she sailed Four Days before the Vessel that brought the printed Account is not yet arrived.

ARTHUR LEE TO THE EDITOR OF *London Chronicle* ¹

Tuesday, May the 30th, 1775

As a doubt of the authenticity of the account from Salem, touching an engagement between the King's Troops and the Provincials in the Massachusetts Bay, may arise from a paragraph in the [London] *Gazette* of this evening, I desire to inform all those who wish to see the original affidavits which confirm that account, that they are deposited at the Mansion House with the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor for their inspection.

Arthur Lee,

Agent for the House of Representatives of the Massachusetts Bay.²

1. *London Chronicle*, May 30 to June 1, 1775.

2. Under "Advices from America," the newspaper reproduced all the affidavits concerning the battle. It also published the account as printed in the *Salem Gazette*, April 25, 1775.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 30 May 1775

The British Ministry is completely at rest as far as we are concerned; because they are sure of our peaceful intentions, they do not worry about the movements of the Spanish Navy and troops; I attempted to find out what their opinion on this matter really is. They are convinced that the planned expedition does not have any other purpose, for the moment, than an attack against Africa. But they fear that upon receiving the news of the hostilities recently declared in Brazil, and especially the advantage taken by the Portuguese over the Spaniards in that part of the world, His Catholic Majesty may fall immediately upon Lisbon with his forces already gathered and ready to move. They think that the superiority of the Portuguese forces in Brazil may have lead M. de Pombal ² to give them a free hand against the Spaniards and that the King of Spain, faced with the difficulty of regaining the advantage in that Colony, may deem more to his convenience to take an immediate revenge in Europe, where Portugal may easily be conquered before England could provide her with effective help.

Such is the train of thought of the Ministry at present; as tiresome as they may find this uncertainty, they dare not do anything to guard against all possible events for fear of spreading alarms that might prove fatal for the present state of affairs in America as well as the peace in Europe; they flatter themselves in thinking that France would restrain Spain in the foresight that an attack against Portugal would unavoidably cause war. . . .

The frigates *La Surprise* and *Aldborough* which are attached to the Newfoundland squadron have just sailed from Plymouth for their destination; *Romney* with 50 guns is ready to sail from Portsmouth under the command of the Superintendent of Fishing.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 510, 274, LC Photocopy.

2. Portugese Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and War from 1750 to 1777.

31 May

JOSEPH WHARTON, JR. TO WILLIAM BRADFORD ¹

Sir

London May 31st 1775

I cannot let Capt [John] Hazlewood depart ² without sketching a few lines to you. — You will find by the Papers, that We have received an account from Salem of the defeat of Col [Francis] Smith, and the precipitate Retreat of Lord [Hugh] Percy by the animated resistance of the brave Bostonians.³ This intelligence, so contrary to the expectations of Government, who have daily announced the Americans Cowards, has pannick struck Administration, and their tory Dependants, and has exihilirated the Spirits of the Sons of America in this Metropolis, and the Friends to Freedom, in the most exhalted manner. It is impossible to describe the Shame & Vexation, which are visibly depicted in the Countenances of North, and his tyrannical Abettors. They are constrained to acknowledge, that the Regulars began the Attack, and equally forced to admit the intrepidity of our Countrey men. — But what alarms them most, is, the expectation of hourly receiving advice of the whole of General [Thomas] Gages Army being

cut off, or meanly sheltering themselves on board the Men of War, or in the Castle. God grant their total extermination – (as it will unquestionably eject this detestable Administration, and oblige George the Third to do Justice to his faithful insulted American Subjects) – Government has not yet received any Dispatches from the General – She has craved a suspension of animadversions on the News, until She can refute, or is compell'd to authenticate it: In the mean Time Stocks have had a Shock, and the People, every where, denounce Vengeance against Bute, Mansfield, North, Sandwich,⁴ and their ignominious Adherents. – I impatiently wait the next intelligence – as I have no doubt We shall hear of further significant manifestations of American Prowess – founded in that Principle which God and their Right will inspire them with. – Mr John White and I yesterday Surveyed Temple Bar⁵ with great exactness and We found on a nice scrutiny, that it would bear the decoration, of the principle Villains in the Kingdom with splendor & Ease – think it not chymical when I tell you, I feel a prophetic sensation, that I shall soon see their Decapitated Heads gracing this Dedication to Liberty; – and O may the most abandoned of Traitors, Hutchinson,⁶ meet his adequate Reward! Farewell – In haste

Wigwam⁷

To Mr. William Bradford at the London Coffee House, Philadelphia

1. William Bradford Papers, HSP.
2. Hazelwood, in the ship *Rebecca*, reached Philadelphia just prior to July 31, 1775. *Pennsylvania Packet*, July 31, 1775.
3. Lexington and Concord.
4. John Stuart, 3d Earl of Bute; William Murray, 1st Earl of Mansfield and Lord Chief Justice; Frederick North, 2d Earl of Guilford, Prime Minister; and John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich, Chief Lord of the Admiralty.
5. Temple Bar, designed by Christopher Wren, and then standing at Strand and Fleet Streets, "over against the Law Courts."
6. Thomas Hutchinson, former Governor of Massachusetts Bay.
7. Identity of the letter writer was indicated by Bradford below the signature.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

London, 31 May 1775

Our correspondent in Portsmouth informed us on the 28th that five dispatches had arrived the day before, carrying various orders. He did not know their contents except for one which brought the order for the ship *Meredith* to sail immediately for Gibraltar and the frigate *Levant* for Jamaica; the workmen labored on their sails until eleven o'clock in the evening that same day. On Sunday, the 28th, they were still at it and supplies were brought on board hurriedly. The order was given in the same port to fit out the frigates *Thetis* and *Fox*, but we do not know their destination. The Brigantine *Lyon* had sailed the day before for Newfoundland. We assume that one of the above mentioned orders concern the fitting out of the ships destined to cruise during the Summer in accordance with the information which I had the honor to send you recently and which has not come back to us yet from Portsmouth or Plymouth. They are sending a small ship to the Gulf of Mexico. The same letter tells us that all the sailors from the merchant-men then in Portsmouth have taken flight fearing an impressment. We

have every reason to believe that their fear is unfounded, but it seems that the Ministry is again alarmed by the Spanish armaments and that these avisos are sent in any event to advise their far-away garrisons and squadron to keep more strictly on the look-out.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 510, 275, LC Photocopy.

1 June

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

By &c

Captain [John] Stanhope Commander of His Majesty's Sloop the *Raven* (by whom you will receive this) being directed to put himself under your Command and follow your Orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required and directed to take him under your Command accordingly, and employ him and the said Sloop, in such manner as you shall find best for His Majesty's Service entrusted to your Care. Given &c. the 1st. June 1775.

By &c P:S:

Sandwich
Palmerston
H: Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 466, NYHS Transcript.

POSTSCRIPT OF *London Chronicle*, TUESDAY, MAY 30 TO THURSDAY,
JUNE 1, 1775

London [June 1].

A letter from an Officer on board the *Somerset* man of war at Salem, says, "You will no doubt receive by the same vessel which brings this, an account of the late most lamentable disturbance at Lexington . . . Our ship, as well as the *Lively* and two sloops are at present stationed to prevent a conjunction of the troops from any of the detachments which are assembled at Bellingham [sic.] and Tash river, as they must march along the road which is commanded by our cannon . . . Neither our seamen or soldiers enter heartily on the service. Our marines are almost in arms, and of the whole which I left the ship on the above service, eighteen have deserted." ¹

A Correspondent says, "Many persons very absurdly blame Administration, because the ship *Sukey*, Capt. Brown, with the dispatches from Gen. [Thomas] Gage, did not arrive before or as soon as the ship with the printed account of the skirmish; but they should consider that though the *Sukey* sailed four days before the other, that she might probably meet with bad weather during those four days, which may have obliged her to put into some port to repair her damages, and by that means the ship which sailed last from America arrived first. And it is no uncommon thing for a private merchant ship to bring intelligence from different places before the government packet, for the above reason."

1. This letter appears to have been concocted in London, rather than wrtitten from the *Somerset*.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

(No 20)

Whitehall 1st June 1775

Sir, Since my letter to you of 27th ulto an account has been printed here, accompanied with Depositions to verify it, of Skirmishes between a Detachment of the Troops under your Command, and different Bodies of the provincial Militia.

It appears, upon the fullest Inquiry, that this Account, which is chiefly taken from a Salem Newspaper, has been published by a Captain Darby [John Derby], who arrived on Friday or Saturday [May 26 or 27] at Southampton, in a small Vessel in Ballast, directly from Salem; and from every Circumstance relating to this Person & the Vessel, it is evident he was employed by the Provincial Congress to bring this account, which is plainly made up for the purpose of conveying every possible Prejudice and misrepresentation of the Truth.

From the Answers he has given to such questions as have been asked, there is the greatest Probability that the whole amounts to no more than that a Detachment sent by you to destroy Cannon and Stores, collected at Concord for the purpose of aiding Rebellion were fired upon at different times by the People of the Country in small Bodies from behind Trees and Houses, but that the Party effected the Service they went upon, & returned to Boston, and I have the Satisfaction to tell you that the Affair being considered in that light by all discerning Men, it has had no other effect here than to raise that just Indignation which every honest Man must feel at the rebellious Conduct of the New England Colonies.

At the same time it is very much to be lamented that We have not some Account from you of this Transaction, which I do not mention from any Supposition that you did not send the earliest Intelligence of it, for we know from Darby that a Vessel with Dispatches from you sailed four days before him. We expect the Arrival of that Vessel with great Impatience, but till she arrives I can form no decisive Judgment of what has happened, and therefore can have nothing more to add but that I am &ca

Dartmouth

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/92, LC Transcript.

“ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA” ¹

1775

1st June — The said Rear Admiral [Robert Duff] was directed to cause the Act of the same year of His present Majesty Cap. 31. “For the Encouragement of the Fisheries carried on from Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions in Europe &c.” to be also complied with, so far as may depend upon him & the Officers employ’d under him.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

5 June

WILLIAM LEE TO FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE ¹

My dear Br!

London 5 June 75

By Capt Montgomery to Poto[mac] the 24 Ulto I wrote you largely, & sent a large number of papers, pamphlets &c — & by this oppty send you another packet besides this Letter. I have little to say on business, having recd only one Letter from you since the *Adventure* arrived & a short one of Mr [Edward] Browne of March 14 — Since advice of the engagement in Massachusetts Bay on the 19th Aprl, we are greatly confused expecting that all the ships in America will be stop'd as we are advised that the ship in New York has been unloaded. Shd this really prove the case it will be like a Thunder stroke; as for my own part however injurious it may be to me, I shall submit with patience if the measure is thot beneficial to the public cause. Individuals must suffer in such a contest, therefore every one shd bear his Lot with Fortitude & patience. — You will no doubt take care to keep me fully advised of every circumstance, & try every method that is practicable to get ample remittances made this year as possible. Pray stir up Fauntleroy & admonish him to be vigilant & careful of the Estate. Mrs. Lee has innoculated her little Boy, & is under many apprehensions for him, tho' at present the appearances are favourable. We join in best love to our Sister & the Mount Airy Family. Heaven protect you Farewell

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, JUNE 3, TO TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 1775

London. [June 5.]

A ship arrived at Bristol on Monday last [May 29] in 30 days from Hampton, in Virginia. She brings advice that the people of Virginia had heard of the whole affair at Boston; that 24,000 provincial troops lay before it; that General [Thomas] Gage had been requested to let those come out who were inclined, which he had refused; that it was thought the provincial troops would speedily begin to cannonade the town; and that upon receiving these advices in Virginia, Gen. Washington immediately set out to join the army at Boston.

Another ship is arrived at Bristol from New-York. She, it is said, brings advices, that when the people of New-York were informed of the skirmish at Concord, they rose in a body, went to the town-house, where the arms of the troops were deposited, and directly seized them. In the harbour there were two ships laden with stores for General Gage, which they seized and unloaded. The provincial troops of New-York immediately began their march for Boston.

The *Boston Evening Post* of Monday, April 24, has the following paragraph: "The Printers of the *Boston Evening Post* hereby inform the town, that they shall desist publishing their paper after this day, till matters are in a more settled state."

7 June

RICHARD CHAMPION TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co¹

Gentlemen

Bristol 7 June 1775

My Last was 15 April Since I have your favors 30 March & 11 April. I was in hopes to have been able to have rendered your Sales & Acct Current of the Wheat, but the quantities on hand have prevented the people taking away, so that the Warehouses are not yet cleared, which is the occasion of my not being able to settle the Account – They promise me it will be cleared away soon.

Wheat, owing to the Quantity imported, the very dry weather which has stopped most of the Mills, and the very promising appearance of the new wheat, has declined to 6/6. The Importations into the Kingdom have been immense, & without them Wheat would have been very high. How to advise you in future I know not. If the Weather continues favorable Wheat will not be dearer, & I fear will fall, but if there should be wet sufficient to endanger the Harvest, it must keep up & rise; at present the quantities are large in the Kingdom for sale, but then they must go off gradually, as there is very little English Corn. Super fine flour 17/6 common 15/6 & 16/ Indien Corn 3/3. The latter Article will I think encrease in demand, but the Summer not so much so; The Duty being taken off is greatly in its favour. Mr [Edmund] Burke our Representative daily rises in the Esteem of the true friends to his Country. His last Speech, which I do not send you, as it is gone out from London, as soon as published, & I was from home when it came out, shews him to be a true friend to the Constitution of the whole Empire, & a perfect Master of its Interests.

I have heard nothing about the *Champion*, & therefore am uncertain whether she will come to you, if she does you will in course follow my orders, but in the present State of the market, I should not think it prudent to make any Concern now, as the Harvest is So very promising, nor can I recommend any to be sent here after the receipt of this Letter, You shall however be further advised. The late Disturbances at Boston have various Effects here some believe, others disbelieve the Story, I think it for my part too clear an Account to admit of the least doubt. What the Ministry will now do it is impossible to say. give way at last they must.

I am with great *Truth* Gentlemen [&c.]

Rich Champion

1. Morris Papers, HUL.

8 June

WILLIAM LEE TO SAMUEL GRIFFIN¹

Dear Sir!

London 8 June 1775

I wrote you the 25 of Aprl wch is my 3rd Letter in the course of this year, to all wch be pleased to refer. The other day I recd yr favr of Mar 30 from Norfolk & tho' I recd a Letter from Capt Brown of 10 days later date he does not mention one word of having any of yr Tobo, nor has my Br wrote me of having recd the 10 hhds from Hipkins, if he does in time they shall be insured as you

direct. I now inclose you yr Acct Curr't as you direct Ball. due to you £114.3 which hope you will find right & note in conformity to mine. By this you will see how many of yr Bills have been paid. I have wrote you so fully & frequently respecting the insurance of the *Fanny*, that I can add nothing farther than to request you will direct me what to do with the Underwriters who still refuse to pay their subscriptions. In my Judgement they are clearly Liable, but, as the Law is always uncertain, for my own part, wd advise first to take the opinion of Council, & then to bring suit or refer it to Arbitration as the case may appear best, provided the Underwriters will agree to refer it. It is too clear that all American Trade must for a time be at a stand; when it will revive again or in what form, God only knows. I wish you all Happiness & am &c –

P.S. Yr Br Cyrus has mentioned to me something about compounding a debt to Brereton on which subject I shall write to the Mayor soon –

William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

London, 8 June 1775

The dispatches which we expect directly from General Gage have not arrived yet. A few ships which came from Virginia and New York have confirmed the first news. We learned also that, prior to the engagement that took place on the 19th, they had received at Boston the formal addresses which both Houses of Parliament presented to the King of England early last February as well as the answer of His British Majesty. We learned further that Boston was surrounded by the insurgents and that 4,800 sailors seeing they were going to be deprived of their fishing rights, deserted their ships and joined their compatriots under arms. The supporters of the Government in the Province of Massachusett have abandoned this Colony; several of them took refuge in Halifax and more than sixty embarked on the ship awaited by the Government. It is certain that as soon as it was learned in New York what had happened in the Province of Massachusett on the 19th, the inhabitants of this city unloaded by force two ships that were in their port carrying supplies for General Gage and ready to sail. The next ships which will arrive from Boston will tell us more about the state of affairs. . . .

The ship *Romney* with 50 guns and the corvette *Marin* have just sailed from Portsmouth for Newfoundland.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 510, 277, LC Photocopy.

9 June

WILLIAM LEE TO JOHN ANDREW MEYER¹

Sir!

London 9 June 1775

I duely recd yr esteemd favor of the 30 Ulto and am sorry for having given you so much fruitless trouble with the order on Mr Wegener. I have before me Messrs Burrowes & Sons Acct Sales for Mr John Finchs Tobo nt procds Bank P 438.6 which suppose they will have no objection to pay in part of Mr Finchs Bill on them, when it becomes due, deducting if they think proper intst for the time,

as their sales are dated May 16 Ulto at 4 Mos credt & they stand del Credere. — When the Bill has run its time you will please to receive & remit to me the whole or any part they will please to pay & return the Bill noted only for what is not paid. The price of Tobo must surely rise now as we have very little in this market & the War is actually on Foot in America. When it will end God only knows in my opinion it will be some years first, even if things shd continue quiet all the while in Europe

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

10 June

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, JUNE 8, TO SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1775

London. [June 10.]

It is said that Mr. Secretary [John] Pownall waited upon Capt. [John] Darby, and desired him to attend Lord Dartmouth, which he refused to do without an official letter, signifying his Lordship's request, and for what purpose, assigning as a reason for this caution, "That he had heard of instances, where, after having pumped every article of intelligence from persons in similar circumstances with himself, facts had been grossly misrepresented, and a very improper use made of the information; he was determined therefore to have some authority for what he did, to justify himself to his countrymen in America, from any imputation that might be thrown on him hereafter, when the Ministry had made all the use of him they could." Not long since, a person was examined before a Great Board, and his evidence taken down in writing, a copy of which was given to him the next day to sign; like a man of business, however, he chose to examine the contents of the paper before he gave it the sanction of his name; the result was, that the sense and spirit of his declaration were gone, and a different meaning and construction were palpably given to every sentence of his evidence.

London Gazette, TUESDAY, JUNE 6, TO SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1775

Whitehall June 10, 1775

Lieutenant [Joseph] Nunn, of the Navy, arrived this Morning at Lord Dartmouth's Office, and has brought Letters from General [Thomas] Gage, Lord [Hugh] Percy, and Lieutenant Colonel [Francis] Smith, containing the following Particulars of what passed on the 19th of April last between a Detachment of the King's Troops in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, and several Parties of Rebel Provincials, viz.¹

1. The letters are detailed reports of the Lexington and Concord engagements.

12 June

WILLIAM LEE TO WILLIAM HICKS ¹

Dear Sir!

London 12 June 75

The other day I recd a Letter from my Nephew inclosing the last years Accts amt £45.11.3 & advising of yr dft: for said Sum to Mr Saml Potter which shall be duely honor'd when it appears. I am almost ashamed to give you so

much trouble abt my Nephews already, but my Br has particularly desired that duplicates of the Bills with rects to them may be sent him every year which I must beg the favor of you to do; or if the Bills of the several claimants are made out in your name, I shd suppose a Copy of the Acct transmitted me will ansr my Brs purpose. I shall ever esteem myself greatly obliged by yr kindness to my Nephews & hope they will prove ymselves worthy yr protection The 16th Ulto: I pd Wilkie £4.11. for yr Newspapers wch is to yr debt We esteem here the *London Evening Post*, published 3 times a week the best evening paper if you choose instead of the *L. Chronicle*, I will have it regularly sent you. The Ministry have last Saturday published their Acct of the unhappy transaction the 19th Aprl last on Massachusetts Bay, which is rather more to the disadvantage of the Regulars than the Acct we had before. They say that the Militia fired first, 'tho the contrary is proved by a number of authentic depositions, some of them sworn to by the Regulars themselves. If the people of England do not interfere a little more seriously than they have done to stop the wanton effusion of the blood of our American Brethren & put a speedy stop to this most unnatural war. I am sure the consequences must be most fatal to the whole British Empire. I am &c –

P.S. Since writing the above have recd yr esteemed favor of the 8 Inst for which am much obliged The New York May Packet is arrived that brings home the Post Officers from that City. The People there have taken possession of the Post Office, Custom house & Castle. There are in Arms & determined no Troops shall land there. Upwards of 2000 Men are sent off to the relief of the New Englanders, who to a man are determined to *dye* or be *free*. As far as we can learn all America is in Arms and that upwards of 50000 Men are embodied. Will the English never again stir in defence of Liberty? – I trust they will & that shortly.

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

My Lord

Admty Office. 12th June 1775

Having received a Letter from Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves, Commander in chief of his Majesty's Ships in North America dated the 22d of April last at Boston, giving an Account of an Engagement that had happene'd there on the 19th between his Majesty's Troops and the Rebellious Provincials, We send your Lordship herewith a Copy thereof, for his Majesty's information, and are

My Lord Your Lordship's most humble Servants

J. Buller.
Palmerston
H. Palliser.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, JUNE 10, TO TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 1775

London. [June 12.]

On Friday [June 9] Capt. Brown came from America with dispatches for government. The *Sukey* is booked at Lloyd's to have arrived at Dover. The dispatches were sent to Lord Dartmouth's Office on Saturday morning.

On Saturday morning, when the express arrived at Lord Dartmouth's office, with dispatches from General [Thomas] Gage at Boston, they were forwarded by a Messenger to his Majesty at Kew, and at the same time notices were sent to Lord [Frederick] North, Lord [John Leveson] Gower, and the Secretaries of State, of the arrival of the said dispatches, several of whom went immediately to Kew, and had a conference with his Majesty.

13 June

COUNT DE GUINES, FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO ENGLAND, TO
COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 13 June 1775

Mild. Rochford spoke to me only of the descendants of Cromwell now established in America and who became, according to him, the leaders of the rebellion; well, he dreams only of Cromwell and everything related to this subject. He told me that the landing troops had been sent in spite of his advice; that he would have used only a few squadrons to blockade the ports and prevent any trade in the Colonies. If this is true, I really believe that Mild. Rochford was right. Nothing would seem more frightening to the present Ministry than what is happening in America; their last resort is the resolute will of the King. From what I know of this Prince, there has never been one who was more resolute in his decisions and more obstinate! He is at rest apparently because Mild. Mansfield seems to be without worry. He came from the country yesterday to spend an hour with me; I had never seen him so gay and so calm.

The four ships-of-the-line destined to cruise in the Bay of Biscay are gathered in the roads of Portsmouth since the 10th of this month; two frigates and two corvettes are being added to their number. This squadron will sail as soon as Mild. Sandwich, who was expected at Portsmouth on the 12th, will leave for Plymouth. The corvette *Raven* will sail at the same time for Boston.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 510, 278, LC Photocopy. De Guines arrived in London May 26, 1775. M. Garnier, Chargé d'Affaires, was recalled to Paris.

15 June

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL
GRAVES ¹

By &c

Capt [Thomas] Mackenzie of His Majts Sloop the *Hunter* (by whom you will receive this) being directed to put himself under your command & follow your Orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required & directed to take him under your command accordingly & employ him & the said Sloop in such manner as you shall judge best for His Majts Service entrusted to your care Given &c 15th June 1775

By &c PS

Sandwich
Palmerston
Lisburne

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 490, NYHS Transcript.

16 June

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY]
DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA"¹

[1775]

- 16th [June] Commissioners for Victualling His Majesty's Navy were directed to send out 4 Months more Provisions for 5000 Men, of all Species, except Spirits which they were to contract for.
- 17th [Do] The Kings pleasure was signified by the Earl of Dartmouth for augmenting the Squadron under Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves with such a Number of Frigates as should be thought sufficient for effectually securing the obedience of the Laws passed in the last Sessions [of Parliament] for restraining the Commerce & Fisheries of several of the North American Colonies And Several Ships, which see in the annexd List,² were order'd to be got ready for that purpose.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

2. The list was not attached to this document.

17 June

LORD DARTMOUTH TO THE LORDS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY¹

My Lords,

Whitehall June 17th 1775

It being apprehended that the Number of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at present in North America may not be sufficient for effectually securing a due Obedience of the Laws passed in the last Session of Parliament for restraining the Commerce and Fisheries of several of the Colonies, and that it may be particularly useful to have a more considerable Naval Strength at New York to protect the Commerce of His Majesty's Subjects, and to prevent the Rebels in New England from receiving Succours from the Southern Colonies by the Passes of Hudsons River; I am to signify to your Lordships His Majesty's Pleasure that you do augment the Squadron under the Command of Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves with such a number of Frigates as your Lordships shall think sufficient for answering the above-mentioned Objects.

I am &ca

Dartmouth

[Endorsed] Drat to the/Lords of the Admty/17th June 1775/Entd

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

20 June

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL
GRAVES¹

By &c.

Captain [David] Price of His Majesty's Sloop *Viper* (by whom you will receive this) being directed to put himself under your command and follow your Orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required and directed to take



British two-decked warship (probably HMS Endymion, 44).

him under your command accordingly, and employ him and the said Sloop in such manner as you shall judge best for His Majts. Service entrusted to your care. Given &c. the 20th. June 1775.

By &c. P.S:

J. Buller
C. Spencer
Lisburne

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 505, NYHS Transcript.

21 June

DIARY OF JOHN BRAGG OF WHITEHAVEN, ENGLAND ¹

6 mo 21st 1775.

Great uneasiness & disturbances in the Colonies on acct of a small Dutie laid on Tea by the Parliament of Great Brittain – a very great Quantitie of Tea destroyed at Boston, that Port Shutt up by Act of Parliament the Colonies call a General Congress at Philadelphia wherein they resolve against importing or exporting or any Trade with the Mother Country till the above Act Anno 1774 be repealed not much appearance of a reconciliation.

1775 Early this year the Parliament came to a Resolution to put their former acts into full force & in 2d Mo: concludes the inhabitants of Massechusets bay actualy in Rebellion & resolves to send Troops & Ships to reduce them to Subjection – the Event unknown

1. WPL. The second paragraph is undated but follows logically on the same page of the diary.

22 June

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, JUNE 20, TO THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1775

London. [June 22.]

Yesterday arrived a mail from Charles Town, South Carolina, which was brought by the *Swallow* packet, Capt. Copeland, by which there is advice from Charles Town, that a mob rose and seized the arms and gunpowder that were kept in a building adjoining to the Guard-house, in the middle of the town. There were only five barrels of powder seized, but the quantity of arms uncertain. The Deputy Governor has published a proclamation of 100 £. sterling for the discovery of the offenders, but no success had attended it when these accounts came away, which was on the 2d of May.

FLUDYER, MARSH, HUDSON, AND STREATFIELD, LONDON MERCHANTS TO
JAMES BEEKMAN ¹

[London] June 22, 1775

We are duly favoured with your esteemed letter dated 6th May, and beg your acceptance of our thanks for the trouble you have taken, in giving us a circumstantial account of the late calamitous affair at Boston, the consequences whereof are much to be dreaded, and concerning which our sentiments do perfectly correspond with yours, this alarming event still further widens the unhappy breach subsisting between this Country and the Colonies and prevents the restoration of that harmony so requisite for their mutual prosperity and Interest,

we ardently wish conciliating measures may be pursued, both by the Ministry and the General Congress, so as most effectually to retard the progress of a Civil War, and hasten the time of a satisfactory reconciliation, which must undoubtedly be the sincere desire of all who have the real welfare of their country fervently at heart.

1. White, ed., *Beekman Papers*, II, 759.

23 June

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 23 June 1775

The supplies for the army of General Gage, which were seized by the rebels in New York, were considerable. They were worth 80,000 pound sterling. It is now necessary to send even the flour from England in order to support this army, and make use of the same means which would have been required for the conquest of America.

The supply ships for the Newfoundland fishermen which ordinarily replenished in ports of the American Continent had to return empty. England cannot depend at present on any source of supply in that part of the world.

Such is, Sir, the position of this country, and yet the King of England is determined not to change his Ministry, come what may, and I know this for a fact. For their part, the members of the Opposition hold so little doubt regarding the need for such a change that their principal leaders gathered only last week and disposed of all the posts: Myd Chatham wishes to become Prime Minister without portfolio in order to be able to govern more safely without having to shoulder the burden of the events. . . .

I know for a fact that the Count de Velderen, Minister from Holland, has received a reproach from the English Ministry in regard to the complaisance with which the United Provinces catered to the needs of New England, to wit the supply of war ammunition. Indeed, we know for an actual fact that the rebels obtained 4,000 barrels of powder from St. Eustatius. These supplies, added to those of the same kind which they found in New York where they took 40 pieces of cannon, cannot but encourage their venture.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 510, 280, LC Photocopy.

24 June

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sr.

[Admiralty Office] 24 June 1775

I received & communicated to my Lords Commissrs of the Admty on the 10th Inst. your Letter of the 11th & 22d of April last giving an Account of your proceedings up to that time; And in return I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that their Lordships very much approve thereof.

Their Lordships observe by your first-mentioned Letter and the account inclosed in it, that many of your Ships are considerably short of their Complement of Men. And that there is no likelihood of making up the deficiency by Volunteers; They have therefore in pursuance of the Kings Order in Council signed Warrants (which I send you by this conveyance with a seperate Letter on the

Subject) empowering the Officers of the Ships of your Squadron to Impress such a Number of Seamen & Seafaring Men as may be necessary to complete their respective Complements; The Clause of the Act of the 6th of Queen Ann which forbid the impressing of Seamen in America being repealed by an Act passed in the last Session of Parliament as you will see by the inclosed Copy which I send you. —

Their Lordships entirely approve of what you propose about retaining an extra number of Pilots in constant Pay, And will send the necessary directions to the Navy Board for paying them, And as an encouragement to the Masters of the Ships of your Squadron to qualify themselves to be Pilots at this Critical time & to become capable of taking charge of Ships upon the Coast of North America, their Lordships will also direct the Navy Board to pay full Pilotage instead of half Pilotage to such of them as shall produce a recommendation from you of their Merit & knowledge with the usual Certificates from their Captains of the Services they have performed as Pilots.

It being apprehended that the number of Ships at present under your command may not be sufficient for effectually securing a due obedience to the Laws passed in the last Sessions of Parliament for restraining the Commerce & Fisheries of several of the Colonies & that it may be particularly useful to have a more considerable Naval Strength at New York to protect the Commerce of His Majts Subjects and to prevent the Rebels in New England from receiving Succours from the Southern Colonies by the passes of Hudsons River: I have it in command from their Lordships to acquaint you that the *Hunter*, *Viper* & *Raven* Sloops (by the last of which you will receive this) are now ready & under Sailing Orders to proceed to Boston, And that the four Ships of 28 Guns each mentioned in the Margin ² are fitting out with the utmost expedition & will be sent as soon as possible as a farther reinforcement to you for Answering the objects abovementioned Objects which their Lordships have very much at heart and consequently recommend to your most serious Attention

But I am at the same time commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to consider whether with this reinforcement it will be of any essential Service to keep the Great Ships with you during the ensuing Winter, And if it will not, to send some or all of them to England towards the latter end of the Year, letting their Lordships know what Sort of Ships you would wish to be supplied with in their room in the Spring; This point however of sending home the Great Ships their Lordships leave entirely to your discretion according as the necessity of the Times & the Service may require but they wish to have your opinion thereupon by the very first conveyance that offers.

Their Lordships upon discoursing with the Commissrs of the Victualling as to the dependance that may be had upon the Contract they have made for supplying the Ships under your command with Provisions, received from them the inclosed Copy of a Letter from Mr Grant their Contractor which I send you for your information more especially as what he mentions respecting the use of fresh Provisions where they can be had seems to deserve your particular attention; I am at the same time to acquaint you that in order to guard against any accidents their Lordships have directed the Victualing Board to send out to you without

delay a farther supply of Provisions for 5000 Men for 4 Months of all species except Spirits & to contract for a quantity of Rum to be delivered at Boston to answer the other Species, And their Lordships desire that you will, by the first conveyance that offers let them know what is the State of your Provisions; what farther supplies you conceive may be necessary to be sent to you from hence; And when and where you would wish to have them sent &c

P S

By the *Viper* – See Comr. Gambier's Letter of 25 June

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 449, NYHS Transcript.
2. *Actaeon, Lizard, Milford, Solebay.*

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 24th June 1775

The King having been pleased by his Order in Council of the 16th of June 1775 to order my Lords Commrs of the Admty to issue out such Warrants as they should find requisite for pressing so many Seamen, Seafaring Men & Persons whose occupations & callings are to work in Vessels & Boats upon Rivers in His Majestys Dominions in North America as should from time to time be necessary for Manning His Majts Ships & Vessels employed in those parts; I am commanded to send Your Lordship herewith 40 blank Press Warrants (prepared in consequence thereof & signed by my Lords) for Captains & Commanders of His Majts Ships & Vessels And also 20 of another sort for Lieutenants commanding Schooners & Armed Vessels in order that your Lordship may cause the same to be filled up & delivered occasionally to such Captains, Commanders & Lieutenants not before furnished with them or Armed Vessels as may not have received them before or as you may appoint to Vacancies that may happen in the Squadron, all which Warrants your Ldsp will please to observe are to continue in force 'til the 31st Day of December 1776 unless duly countermanded before that time; And I am commanded by their Lordships to Signify their directs of the said Warrants to be filled up & delivered from time to time to such Captains Commrs and Lieutenants (not already furnished therewith) as you in your discretion shall judge necessary for completing the Complements of such of your Ships as are deficient And also to fill up & deliver in like manner from time to time such of the others to the Captains & Commanders of His Majts Ships & Vessels &c who may be sent out to you, or who may be appointed to Vacancies as aforesaid; sending their Lordships a List of their Names and the dates of the Warrants that Entries may be made accordingly in the Books of this Office giving these Officers such Instructions as your Lordship shall judge proper for carryg them into Execution &c

And as it is more difficult, at this distance to settle Instructions for the Conduct of the Officers who may be employed to carry the above Warrants into execution than upon the spot where the particular circumstances of the Trade of His Majestys Subjects in the present critical situation of Affairs must be so much better understood; I have it further in command from their Lordships to send you herewith printed Copies of the Instructions which have been usually given with Press Warrants issued here at home, and to signify their directions to you

to prepare & issue Instructions with the several press Warrants which you may deliver as aforesaid as nearly conformable to the Printed ones abovementioned as the circumstances of the Trade of His Majts Subjects the nature of the Service and the particular situation of Affairs, in North America may in your Opinion render necessary & proper, taking care to avoid giving any sort of distress to the Trade & Commerce legally carried on by His Majts Subjects in those parts, but what may be absolutely necessary for the keeping your Squadron properly Mannd &c

P. S

Vice Adml Graves – Boston

By the *Viper* – see Comr Gambier's Letter of 25 June.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 453, NYHS Transcript.

WILLIAM LEE TO WILLIAM HICKS ¹

Dear Sir!

London 24 June 75

I have before me yr two favrs of 9 & 16 Inst the Contents of which I duely observe. You have now some Franks to inclose my Nephews Acct have no doubt my Br will think them reasonable, as I suppose the whole years expences is included in your dft. indeed we can scarcely be too frugal in these critical times. The perilous situation of American affairs, keeps most things at a stand particularly Tobo for which I never knew so slack a demand tho' we have very little at this Market. If Messrs Chambers & Eilbacks Cargoe is all from the upper part of James River, we cannot be wrong in buying it at the French price of 3½ P lb with their allowance but it shd be deld in London if required as this is the best port for making the most of the different qualities. The paymts to be in 3 or 4 Mos after delivery by bills on London at 60 daies. I shd imagine the best method would be to get from the lowest term & then one may be able to make judge whether to accept or not and also it may be advisable to strike the bargain before the ship arrives, as it is possible she may bring advices that will raise their demand. 'Tis not likely we can lose by buyg at the above price with the usual allowance on buying at the Mast, but the times are too precarious to venture higher I am &c –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

25 June (Sunday)

FREDERICK DERRY TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

My dear Lord

Derry June 25th [1775]

A Vessel is this very moment arriv'd at our Quay in 28 days from Philadelphia & brings letters from thence, some of which are now before me, replete with exultations on their Success against the Fort at Ticonderoga – they surpriz'd the Garrison consisting of only 45 men & possess'd themselves of all the cannon & ammunition.

the congress were sitting & had determin'd that all American ports should be shut on the 20th of July, & New York & N: Carolina had determined not to avail

themselves of the Privilege granted them by Parliament – the American correspondent adds “here all degrees of People are arming; even N:York is now violent in defence of American freedom, & so unanimous are the Colonies in the common cause that it is determined to march from any one province to another where it may be necessary” I wish my dear Lord my intelligence had been as satisfactory as it is early but such as it is I thought it might be important for your Lordship to know it – All the letters agree in the account of an Universal armament: believe me with the sincerest esteem [&c.]

Frederick Derry

1. Dartmouth Mss., WSL.

26 June

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, JUNE 26 [1775].”¹

On Saturday [June 24] sailed from Spithead, with dispatches to Gen. [Thomas] Gage at Boston, the *Viper* sloop of war; and in the morning the Commissioner went on board her, and paid her two months advance.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 27 to June 29, 1775.



AMERICAN THEATRE

From May 21, 1775, to Sept. 2, 1775



(Top) Boston, c. 1760. (Bottom) New York, c. 1777.

AMERICAN THEATRE

From May 21, 1775, to September 2, 1775

SUMMARY

Wishful thinking that differences between the Mother Country and her recalcitrant Colonies might find amicable settlement ended with the gunfire on the Lexington Common. While New Englanders were closing in upon Boston, ringing it with redoubts and fortified lines from the Mystic River to Dorchester, the second Continental Congress forgathered in Philadelphia, and resolved itself, day after day, into a committee of the whole "to take into consideration the state of America." That it was critical, every delegate from each of the twelve colonies represented fully realized.

Advice was received on the second day of the session (May 11, 1775) that the British Ministry had declared its intention to enforce obedience to each and every act of the Parliament, objectionable, coercive, restrictive as they were. The army in America was to be reinforced by at least three infantry regiments and some six hundred marines. More vessels of war had been ordered into commission to augment the squadron already based upon Boston. Some of the new troops were to be landed in New York, posing the urgent question; how should they be received? Within a week the Congress heard, in stunned surprise, that a handful of irregulars had taken the fortresses of Ticonderoga and Crown Point, with their numerous military stores.

By May 21 only a few of the problems had found partial solutions. New York should not oppose the troops as long as they proved peaceable, and did not attempt to erect fortifications. The cannon and all other military stores from Ticonderoga and Crown Point should be inventoried and removed to the south end of Lake George, where a strong defensive post should be established. The Continental Association's restrictions upon exportation should be expanded to embrace Quebec, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, the two Floridas, and that part of Georgia, which had not yet sent delegates to the Congress.

Meanwhile, the depositions and affidavits proving the British had fired first at Lexington had sped by express through the Colonies. Their contents spread dismay among the merchants, whose fondest hopes had been built upon reconciliation and an abandonment of all restrictions on trade; and among the Tories, who, in many cases, had suffered from the severity of overzealous Committees of Inspection and Correspondence. But they sparked renewed military ardor from Pennsylvania to South Carolina, in every cross-road, hamlet, town or city where the momentous tidings were proclaimed.

In Boston, the British still reeled from the disastrous retreat from Concord. All supplies, except by sea, had been cut off, and many inhabitants had pled for

permission to remove themselves and their effects from the beleaguered town. General Gage, seeing fewer mouths to feed, had considered approval of their desires, if firearms would be delivered up. But a great clamor arose from those loyal to the Crown. Only the disaffected would leave, and then Boston would be set on fire by the Rebels.

Rumors were rife of attacks to be made upon the town, upon Castle William, upon the shipping, before reinforcements could arrive. Armed boats from the British squadron were patrolling the rivers and the harbor, day and night, and the troops literally slept on their arms as the May days passed along.

21 May (Sunday)

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 21st May, 1775

The Admiral wrote Letters to the captains of the *Fowey Tamer* & *Cruizer* informing them that the Rebellion being almost general throughout the Provinces it behooved them to be very circumspect and attentive to his Majesty's Interest; to support the Kings Governors and civil Power established by Law as long as they could and to assist and protect all other his Majesty's faithful Subjects and their property; but not to act offensively except for the immediate preservation of his Majesty's Ships under their Command, or except upon the special Requisition of the civil Magistrates in cases of the utmost Danger. He however hoped that things would not remain much longer in this uncertain State, that either an accomodation would take place between Great Britain and her Colonies, or effectual Measures be adopted to support the Kings just authority in and over them all. He told Captn [George] Montagu that the Delaware ought not to be left without a Kings Vessel, therefore, unless it was absolutely necessary to detain him longer to send Lieut [Henry] Colins to his Station (to whom he also wrote), and to continue to forward the Dispatches therewith delivered according to their several Addresses, and that he would have him take on Board as much Bread as he could possibly stow, as the fleet was very short of that Article, and direct Lieut. Colins to do the same. He told Capt [Edward] Thornborough that his last letter was come to hand dated March 7th acquainting him with what he had done towards repairing the defective parts of the *Tamer* and fishing his foremast; that there was an end to all Correspondence by Land, & that he intended to send a Ship or Sloop to relieve him as soon as possible; in the mean time it would be proper for him to be upon his guard, to have his Majesty's Sloop under his Command in constant readiness for Action, and to keep his provisions compleat, particularly Bread, for all the Supplies to the Kings Ships were forbidden by the Congress. He let captn [Francis] Parry know that she had received his Letters with the State and Condition of his Majesty's sloop *Cruizer* in Masts, Sails Rigging and other Stores, that from his representation he indeed appeared to be in a very unwarlike Condition; he might therefore expect to be relieved very soon: In the mean time he must put her into the best Condition he could, take care not to be surprized by the Rebels, and get on board as much provision as he could conveniently stow, particularly Bread: that the *Otter* was sent to Virginia, The *Tamer* was still at South Carolina, and He must

continue to give what Assistance and Protection he could to his Majesty's Governor at North Carolina.

With the foregoing Letters the Admiral sent to each Captain a number of printed Accounts of the Battle of Lexington, which had been very falsely represented by the Provincials.²

He also wrote to the collector of the customs at Salem to let the town know that he would not press their sailors if they did not stop the supplies for the Squadron, & in order to facilitate and encourage the bringing to Boston of Hay, Lumber, Fuel and Provisions for the use of the Garrison, the Admiral ordered that the calling of Vessels at Salem to enter should be dispensed with.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 96–98, MassHS Transcript.

2. The letters to the four captains are in Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 421–425, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO THOMAS FISHER, COLLECTOR OF
HIS MAJESTY'S CUSTOMS AT SALEM ¹

Sir,

Boston 21st May 1775

The Bearer of this Letter is Mr [Alexander] Brymer Agent to the Contractors for supplying his Majs Ships with Provisions; he has at Salem a Quantity of Bread and other Articles for the use of the Squadron. If the Town of Salem mean to approve themselves good Subjects, quiet and peaceably disposed, they have now an Opportunity to shew it. Let Mr Brymer ship off his Provisions, and let me have assurances that my People may come as formerly to purchase and that they shall be supplied and allowed to carry away what they want for the Kings Service, paying for the same, and I will not only order every prest man to be discharged who is an inhabitant of Salem, and direct no more to be impressed but I will give the Town any Protection and Assistance they can desire to enable them to continue firm in a dutiful Conduct towards his Majesty which cannot in my Opinion fail of producing the happiest Consequences to themselves. I am &c.

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 420, 421, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Off Castle William Island [Boston Bay]

Sunday 21 at 8 A M Set the Rigging up fore & aft. Arrived two Transports from England with Soldiers. Employed clearing the Ship for Sea [P M] Variable Weather Saw three hundred Rebels marching round Dorchester Bay.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

CAPTAIN BENEDICT ARNOLD TO CAPTAIN JOHN STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Ticonderoga May 21 1775

Colo. [Ethan] Allen & his Party is Just Arived from St. Johns, where they are Attacked the next Morning after I came away, the 19th Inst. by About Two hundred, Regulars, with Six Field Pieces, & were obliged to make a precipitate

Retreat with the loss of three Men Missing – They have returned without Provision, & much Fatigued. Pray Send On all the Provision you have immediately & those Men who will Engage for the Summer, I have here exclusive of Colo. Allens Men, Abt. 120 Men & have 'the Sloop & Schooner, in as good Order as posable (for the time), I shall immediately proceed to Crown Point, & make a stand there In Order to Secure the Cannon at that Place. I am under no Apprehension From the Enemy at present, as we are masters of the Lake – Dont fail Sending some Powder without Loss of time, as we have only a few Pounds.

I am Sir [&c.]

Bened^t Arnold Comr

1. Lawrence H. Leder, ed., *The Genesis of American Freedom 1765–95* (Brandeis University, 1961), plate VIII, facsimile.

22 May

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Monday, May 22, 1775

A Letter was received from the Committee of Safety, enclosing a communication from Colonel Benedict Arnold, giving information of the surrender of Ticonderoga.

Ordered, That the following Letter to Colonel Arnold, reported by a Committee, be accepted, signed by the Secretary, and forwarded in the name and behalf of this Congress, as soon as may be.

Watertown, May 22, 1775

Sir: This Congress have this day received your letter of the eleventh instant, informing the Committee of Safety of the reduction of the fort at Ticonderoga, with its dependencies which was laid before this Congress by said Committee. We applaud the conduct of the Troops, and esteem it a very valuable acquisition.

We thank you for your exertions in the cause, and considering the situation of this Colony at this time, having a formidable Army in the heart of it, whose motions must be constantly attended to, and as the affairs of that expedition began in the Colony of Connecticut, and the cause being common to us all, we have already wrote to the General Assembly of that Colony to take the whole matter respecting the same under their care and direction, until the advice of the Continental Congress can be had in that behalf, a copy of which letter we now enclose you.

We are, &c.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 817, 676, from Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS' CAPTAINS AT BOSTON ¹

Whereas in the present Exigency of his Majesty's Service it is necessary to facilitate as much as possible the bringing to Boston, Provisions, Lumber and Firewood for the use of the Army and Navy, You are hereby required and directed notwithstanding any former Orders to allow all Ships and Vessels laden with Provisions, Grain, Hay, Straw, Lumber, Firewood, and Spars, and which shall be properly cleared at the Port of Lading, to come into this Harbour, although

they may not have my pass or a Clearance from Salem, taking Care however that all such do proceed straight up to Boston, and to no other Place within this Harbour.

Given under my Hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston* 22 May 1775.

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 425, 426, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 In Tarpolean Cove

Tuesday 22d A M at 7 fired two Swivels & two Six Pounders Shotted and Bro't too a Brigg from Dominica ² . . . P M Deserted two Marines and the Pursuers Steward.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

2. There is no record in the prize list in Graves's Conduct, MassHS Transcript, that this vessel was condemned, although Linzee listed her as in his company when he sailed for Boston May 31.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, MAY 22, 1775

Newport, May 22.

The week before last Capt. [John] Linzee, of the *Falcon* sloop of war, took two sloops on the coast between this place and the Vineyard, without the least reasonable pretence that we can learn; upon which the people at the eastward manned out two other vessels, retook the sloops, and carried them into Fair Haven, in Dartmouth last Saturday se'nnight [May 13] with 14 of Capt. Linzee's men, three of whom were wounded, which three were kept there, and taken good care of, and one other, who was a doctor's mate, was kept to dress their wounds; the others were sent to Taunton the next day. — It is said the above sloops, being only in ballast, were to have been employed in carrying live stock from some of the islands of Boston for the use of the King's troops. . . .

The brig mentioned in our last to have come here for provisions for our enemies, we are assured came only to procure provisions, and other necessaries, for a fishing company at Canso; but she will not take any provisions in, even for that purpose, there being several *piratical* cruisers stationed as 'tis supposed, between this place and Cape-Cod, on purpose to take vessels with provisions. . . .

The inhabitants of Halifax have destroyed 50 tons of hay, which was loaded on board several vessels, for General Gage.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE ALBANY COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen,

Ticonderoga, May 22, 1775

I take the liberty to advise you that on the 13th inst. having proceeded from this place to St. Johns, with a party of my regiment of 35 men, I surprised and took prisoners, a sergeant and his party of 12 men, the King's sloop of 70 tons, and seven men, mounted with two brass six pounders; and in two hours after weighed anchor with the sloop, &c. and proceeded for this place . . . I am now

fixing the sloop with six carriages and ten swivels, the schooner with four carriages and six swivels,² and am determined to proceed to Crown Point, and make a stand there, in order to secure the cannon, near 100 pieces, at that place. We are in great want of a number of seamen, gunners, carpenters, &c., for both vessels. Our safety in a great measure depends on them, the vessels, as they will be able to command the lake if properly manned. Enclosed is a list of men wanted immediately, which I beg the favour of you gentlemen, to ship and send up here without loss of time, furnishing them with such things as you judge necessary. I have judicious able, commanders for both vessels, and want only mates, gunners, marines, &c. Annexed is the wages I propose giving, but must refer that to your direction, and any sums you are kind enough to advance for the above purpose, I will give a draft for, on the Committee of Safety at Cambridge, being fully empowered for that purpose. We have only one hundred and fifty pounds good powder for both vessels, and one hundred men. I have wrote repeatedly to Albany for powder, and must once more entreat you, gentlemen, if not forwarded, to send me as soon as possible ten or twelve hundred weight powder. If the seamen, &c. are not to be procured at Albany, I beg the favour of you to forward this letter to the Committee of Safety at New-York, and you will much oblige,

Gentlemen [&c.],

Benedict Arnold, Commander at Ticonderoga

1. *Journals of the Provincial Congress, Provincial Convention, Committee of Safety and Council of Safety of the State of New York, 1775-1776-1777*, (Albany, 1842), Vol. II, 25. Hereafter cited as *N.Y. Prov. Cong*
2. Sloop *Enterprise* and schooner *Liberty*.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN IN NEW YORK, MAY 22 [1775]¹

I am now to inform you, that an express arrived here this day from Ticonderago, which brings an account that Major [Philip] Skene's snow on Lake Champlain was taken last Tuesday [May 16] by forces from Virginia, who have joined our militia and that of Connecticut. She is an armed vessel, and of some consequence on the lake. The New England people have timber ready, and are building fourteen sail on the lakes, all to be armed vessels.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 24, to June 27, 1775.

COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT¹

Honored Sir

New York 22d May 1775

I am directed by the General Committee of Association for this City and County to transmit to your Honor the enclosed Authentic Copy of a Resolution of the Continental Congress, received by express,² and to inform your Honor that in consequence thereof we immediately shipped to Albany One Hundred Barrels Pork, and that a select committee has been appointed to purchase and forward without delay Cordage, Oakum, Pitch, Gins, and every other necessary that may be wanted from hence to carry into execution the aforesaid resolution.

We have also by express desired our Brethern of Albany to give their aid and assistance.

I have the honor to be [&c.]

Henry Remsen Dep Chairman

1. Trumbull Papers, IV, Force Transcript, LC.
2. See Journal of Congress, May 18, 1775.

New York Gazette, MONDAY, MAY 22, 1775

New-York, May 22.

Friday Night last [May 19] Captain Reynolds arrived here from Portsmouth, in New-Hampshire: Last Monday [May 15], off Cape Anne, he was boarded by Capt. Greeves, in a Tender,¹ who had come out of Boston the Day before, and informed him that three Transports arrived there the 6th Instant from England, with Troops, and that many more were hourly expected; that several Vessels were then in Sight, which he imagined was Part of the Fleet, and several Guns had been heard in the Offing.

Thursday [May 18] Capt. Reynolds spoke with Capt. [John] Lyndsay [Linzee], in the *Falcon* Sloop of War, who acquainted him, that having Advice that a Sloop lay at a Place called Sandwich, that had carried some Provisions to Providence, &c. for the Use of the Boston Provincials, he dispatched his Lieutenant, with his Tender and 20 Men, and two other Officers, to take Possession of her; which they accordingly did; But, before they could carry her off, she was retaken, as also the Tender, by some Boats from the Country, and the Lieutenant lost an Arm, the Gunner was wounded in the Head, and the Doctor's Mate in one of his Legs. The Seamen were sent Prisoners into the Country.

The *Asia* Man of War of 64 Guns is hourly expected here from Boston.

1. Lieutenant Thomas Graves in His Majesty's Schooner *Diana*.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, MAY 22, 1775

Philadelphia, May 22.

On Wednesday evening last [May 17] arrived here, John Brown, Esq.; from Ticonderoga, express to the General Congress, from whom we learn, that on the beginning of this instant, a company of about fifty men, from Connecticut, and the western part of Massachusetts, and joined by upwards of one hundred from Bennington, in *New-York government*, and the adjacent towns, proceeded to the eastern side of Lake Champlain, and on the night before the 11th current, crossed the Lake with 85 men, (not being able to obtain craft to transport the rest,) and about daybreak invested the fort, whose gate, contrary to expectation, they found shut, but the wicker open, through which, with the Indian war whoop, all that could, entered one by one, others scaling the wall on both sides of the gate, and instantly secured and disarmed the centries, and pressed into the parade, where they formed the Hollow square; but immediately quitting that order, they rushed into the several barracks on three sides of the fort, and seized on the garrison, con-

sisting of two officers, and upwards of forty privates, whom they brought out, disarmed, put under guard, and have since sent prisoners to Hartford, in Connecticut. All this was performed in about ten minutes, without the loss of a life, or a drop of blood on our side, and but very little on that of the King's troops.

In the fort were found about thirty barrels of flour a few barrels of pork, seventy odd chests of leaden ball, computed at three hundred tuns, about ten barrels of powder in bad condition, near two hundred pieces of ordnances, of all sizes, from eighteen pounders downwards, at Ticonderoga and Crown point, which last place, being held only by a corporal and eight men, falls of course into our hands.

By this sudden expedition, planned by some principal persons in the four neighbouring colonies, that important pass is now in the hands of the Americans, where we trust the *wisdom* of the Grand Continental Congress, will take effectual measures to secure it, as it may be depended on that administration means to form an army in Canada, composed of British regulars, French and Indians to attack the colonies on that side.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore, May 22, 1775]

the Connecticut People have sent a detachment of men & taken Possession of Ticonderoga & Crown point to Prevent General [Guy] Carletons Joining the troops with some Indians & Cannadiens, so you may be assured if the Ministry do not alter their measures there will be warm work, & well I am Convinced those people to the Northward die rather than give up, besides I think if Government Carries matters any further that it must throw of[f] the Dependence of their Colonies –

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

Committee met 22d May 1775.

Ordered that the following Oaths be taken by the Owners Consignees or Super Cargoes of all Vessels and by the Masters and Officers of the same that shall load in Patapsco River –

You A B Owner Supercargo or Consignee of the Ship or Vessel called the [blank] whereof [blank] is Master do make Oath that you will not order or direct, nor bid any Person for you to direct the Cargo now laden or intended to be laden on Board the said Vessel or any part thereof to be unlaided landed or delivered from on Board The said Vessel within the Province of Georgia East or West Florida Quebeck Nova Scotia St Johns Cape Breton Newfoundland, or at any Part of the fishing Coasts or fishing Islands or at the Town or in the Harbour of Boston, or to any Vessel or Vessels in either of the said Islands Provinces Coasts or Town or Harbour of Boston. And further that you do not know that the said Vessel or Cargo is intended or directed by any Order from the Owner or

Owners thereof to proceed to any or either of the said Provinces Coasts Islands or Town of Boston: And that if the Master of such Vessel should land or unlaid the said Carg[o] or any part thereof at any of the Places before excepted contrary to the tenor of this Oath, that you will in such Case give Information thereof to this Committee –

You [blank] Master and Officers of the Ship or Vessel called [blank] do make Oath that you will not land unlaid or deliver from on Board the Ship or Vessel of which you are an [blank] any Part of the Cargo now laden on board the said Vessel either in the Province of Georgia East or West Florida Quebeck Nova Scotia St Johns Cape Breton Newfoundland or at any any Part of the fishing Coasts or fishing Islands or at the Town or in the Harbour of Boston or to any Vessel or Vessels in either of the said Provinces Islands Coasts or Town or Harbour of Boston –

Ordered that Mr [Hercules] Courtney [James] Calhoun [John] Boyd, [David] Stewart [William] Neil & S[amue]l Purviance be a Committee to take the Depositions of all Masters of Vessels & their Officers and of the Owners Consignees or Super Cargoes of Vessels concerning the Destination of all such Vessels And that any three of said Committee be authorized to act. –

1. Balt. Com., LC.

HENRY LAURENS TO WILLIAM MANNING, LONDON ¹

[Extract]

[Charleston] 22d May 1775. –

p Capt Gunn

You think that no Man in England would be better pleased to See a Speedy conclusion of the Subsisting Contest without bloodShed than Lord North – if his Lordship had ever expressed Such Sentiments I Should have thought him a Shallow politician – his actions militated against his wishes – Send out the most arbitrary & cruel Mandates that ever were imposed upon Freemen, Send Fleets & Armies to enforce his Edicts & expect to See a Speedy conclusion to Such business without bloodShed! – I once hoped & flattered my Self, that a happy but not a Speedy conclusion might have been effected & no blood Spilt – I thought that Some mediating measures when we were coming near to blows might have been proposed by Wise & temperate Men from each party but now we have reason almost to despair – the Sword is drawn Hostilities actually commenced by the Kings Troops & many lives lost on both Sides in an action on the 19th April between Concord & Boston, the particulars of which you have heard before this day – what will follow, God knows, but I learn that New York pensilvania Maryland & Virginia are in Arms – North Carolina I am very Sure will be as active as any of them – in this Colony an amazing readiness is Shewn by the people to contribute all in their power to the common cause – indeed a few of us have very hard work to restrain the Zeal & ardour of the many from entering upon Acts which appear to us to be at present impolite & inexpedient –



You think that no Man in England would be better pleased to see a speedy conclusion of the existing Contest without bloodshed than Lord North - if his Lordship had ever approved such Sentiments I should have thought him a shallow politician - his actions militated against his wishes - and sent the most arbitrary Naval Mandates that ever were imposed upon Towns, and Fleet & Armies to suppress his Edicts & attempt to be a speedy conclusion to such business without bloodshed! I once hoped & flattered myself, that a happy but not a speedy conclusion might have been effected & no blood-spill - I thought that some mediating measures when we were coming near to blows might have been proposed by Wise & temperate Men from each party but now we have reason almost to despair - the sword is drawn Hostilities actually commenced by the Frigate Juno & many others lost on both sides in an action on the 19th April between Concord & Boston, the particulars of which you have heard before this day - what will follow, God knows, but I learn that New York Pennsylvania Maryland & Virginia are in Arms - North Carolina I am very sure will be as active as any of them - in this Colony an amazing readiness is shown by the people to contribute all in their power to the common cause - indeed a few of us have every hard word to restrain the zeal & ardour of the many from doing upon - I tell which appear to us to be at present impolitic & imprudential -

(Top left) John Laurens. By Charles Willson Peale, c. 1784. (Top right) Henry Laurens. By Charles Willson Peale, 1784. (Bottom) Extract from a letterbook copy, Henry Laurens to William Manning, May 22, 1775.

Georgia is, notwithstanding all the flattering accounts of Governor [Sir James] Wright, in commotion – the parish of St Johns which contains in number of Men & in Riches a Majority of the whole province has Sent a delegate to the Congress at Philadelphia & last Week the Magazine under the Nose of the Governor was Stripped of all the public Store of Gunn powder, & I am well assured that at Savanna there is a large majority of the Inhabitants ready to participate in the measures of their American Brethern these are no Signs of a Speedy conclusion without bloodshed – a little bloodShed on Tower Hill may become necessary in order to prevent a deluge on both Sides the Atlantic – the Scene is awful, & I have a great part to Act in it – God grant, I may do my Duty, & then come poverty come Death I will not repine –

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–75, SCHS.

23 May

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Cambridge] May 23, 1775

Whereas, our enemies make frequent excursions to the Islands and Sea-Coasts, from whence they plunder Hay, Cattle and Sheep, which not only greatly injures many individuals, but also the publick, and strengthens the hands of our enemies: Therefore,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Honourable [Provincial] Congress to take some effectual measure to secure the stock on the Islands and Sea-Coasts, to prevent it falling into the hands of our enemies.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 762, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston 23 May 1775.

As I understand there is a considerable Quantity of Match at the Castle ² I beg your Excellency will be so good to order Half a Ton to be supplied to the Gunner of his Majesty's Ship *Preston* for the Use of the Squadron under my Command who are in very great want of that Article which cannot be purchased here nor is there any in Store at Halifax. I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. Castle William, in Boston Harbor.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 23d. [May, 1775]

Two Ships arrived with Officers and Recruits; and the *Merlin* Sloop of War arrived in the evening: one or two others arrived a day or two ago. The remainder of the Marines landed and encamped.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 49–50.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Off Long Island [Boston Harbor]

Tuesday 23 At 9 A M weighed & dropt down to long Island at 12 Brot too with the Bt Bower in eight fathom Water off the N E end of Long Island Variable weather Arrived from England his Majesty's Sloop *Merlin* and a Ship with three General Officers' horse & Baggage after Six Weeks passage.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

2. This was the baggage of the Major Generals William Howe, Henry Clinton and John Burgoyne, which arrived a day before the Generals themselves.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] May. 23. [1775]

Last Eveng the story of the burning of Weymouth was contradicted. Gen. [Thomas] Gage it seems sent some armed Schooners to steal Hay in Stacks at Weym[uth] – the p[eo]ple opposed their landing and fired upon and beat them off, and set fire to the stacks of Hay. –

The week before last Capt. [John] Lindzee of the *Falcon* Sloop of War took two Sloops near the Viny[ar]d without any reason. The p[eo]ple of the Eastwd mand out 2 Vessels, retook the Sloops, and carried them into Fairhaven in Dartmo[uth] 13th Inst. with 14 of Capt. Lindzees' hands, 3 of whom wounded w[ho]m w[i]th a Doctors mate they kept there and sent off the rest to Taunton. –

This afternoon a Train of above 90 Soldiers headed by Capt. [John] Topham and Capt. Tew marched from the Courthouse down the Parade and then thro' the main street &c. beating up for Volunteers for the American Army. This is their first public Appearance – Capt [James] Wallace and other Officers of the Man o' War dined on shore when the Train passed. The Tories were greatly mortified to see the daring Boldness of the Rebels as they called them. The Tories had said that the Men o' War would fire the Town if any Soldiers were raised in it. But there was no molestation.

1. Stiles, II, 83, 86, LC.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*" ¹

May 1775 Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour,

Tuesday 23 sent a petty Officer and 3 Men in the Sloop *Collector* to Boston ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

2. See *Newport Mercury*, May 29, 1775.WILLIAM WILLIAMS TO THE CONNECTICUT DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Gent:

Hartford, 23 May 1775

I beg liberty to inform you that we just now recv'd the News of the approbation of the Hone Congress in the possessing ourselves of the important Post of Ticonderoga, &c, with vast Pleasure & Satisfaction.



Ezra Stiles. By Samuel King, 1771.

We yesterday had the News that Col. [Benedict] Arnold had taken the armed Sloop & other Craft in Lake Champlain, without any loss, & that Col. [Ethan] Allen had made an unsuccessful attack on Ft. St. Johns. The first we greatly rejoice in, & as to the latter we wish it had never been attempted, for many reasons. It seems to us, & every one here, that it would be vast Importance to retain the Post, that important Key of Ticonderoga, and must humbly ask Leave to suggest whether it might not be well for the Venerable Congress, our at present superior Legislature, to reconsider the matter of giving up that Post. We being persuaded of its utility, should with infinite alacrity exert every Nerve to preserve it.

Your Zeal, Union & Resolution, at this most critical Day, under the Almighty Blessing of Heaven, will I humbly yet confidently believe prove the Salvation of America.

I am with great Esteem & Respect Gent. [&c.]

W^m Williams

1. *Historical Magazine*, January, 1862, vol. VII, 21, 22.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY,
CAMBRIDGE ¹

Gentlemen

Crown point 23 May 1775

My last was of the 19th Inst by Captain Jonathan Brown, I then Advised you of my taking Possession of the Kings Sloop, &c. & that on the 18th Inst on my return from St Johns Coln [Ethan] Allen with about 80 or 100 Men passed me with Intention of making a Stand at St Johns & not being able to dissuade him from so rash a purpose, I supplied them with provisions &c, Yesterday he arrived at Ticonderoga with his party & Says that on the evening of the 18th Inst he arrived with his party at St Johns & hearing of a Detachment of Men on the Road from Montreal Layd an Ambush for them, but his People being so much fatigued (when the party where about one mile distant) thought proper to retreat & Crossed the Lake at St Johns where they Continued the Night, at dawn the next Day they where (when assleep) saluted with a discharge of Grape shot from six Field pieces & a discharg of Small Arms from about 200 Regulars; they made a precipitate retreat, & left behind three men ² – Immediately on this Advise I proceeded here with the Sloop, & Schooner, well Armed as possible under our Curcumstances & 80 Men which with the party here before makes near 150 Men with whome I am determind to make a Stand here to secure the Cannon, it being impossible to remove them at present, I am in hourly expectation of Two or three hundred men more, most of those here are Inlisted Col Allens Men are in gennerall gone home –

As the Regulars have good information of our Strength and movements, I am apprehensive of their paying us a Vissit Provided they Can get Battoes from Montreal to St Johns. – I Shall make every possible preparation to give them a warm reception – I have Commissioned Captn John Sloan in the Sloop & Captn Isaac Mathues in the Schooner & I have wrote to New York for a number of Gunners & Seamen to man the two Vessells being in Great want of them, at present obliged to Stay on board one of them my self –

As soon as a sufficient number of men arrives I shall lose no time in Carring your orders into execution in regard to the Cannon &c – this morning very luckely a Escort of Provisions (5 Bars of Pork 30 Bars of flour) arrived here as a present from Albany under the care of Captn Elisha Phelps, the last Barrell of our Pork being a Breach, I have ordered 50 Barrs Pork & 100 of flour from Albany which I expect soon prior to which I bought 15 Oxen & 30 Bars flour which is all the provisions purchased as Yet. the People who have inlisted are promised the same Bounty as is given in the Masetusetes Bay. – a Sum of Money will be requisite to carry matters into execution – I have that found in the Sloop but as it was the Captns property do not chuse to make use of it at present. I have sent to Albany repeatedly for powder and can get none, have only 150 lb here which I brought from Concord & beg You will order a Quantity to be forwarded here immediately. I have wrote to Connecticut but can have no dependence from that Quarter as it is very scarce there –

I hope some Gentleman will soon be appointd In my Room here who is better able to serve the Public than I am – Interim I am [&c.] Bened^t Arnold
P S Since writing the Above One of Colo Allens Party who was taken prisoner at St Johns has made his escape & says that On the 19[th] Inst there was 400 Regulars at St Johns who expected to be Joined by more men, & were making all posable [prepar]ation to Cross the lake & retake Crown Point, & Ticonderoga, I have sent expresses to Fort George & Skensborough, to rally the Country You may Depend Gentlemen, these Places will Not be given up unless we are overpowered by Numbers, or Deserted, by Providence, which has hitherto supported us

I am yours &c

B Arnold

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 231.

2. It is interesting to note that Ethan Allen, in his "Narrative" omits any account of this disastrous foray. His story reads: "General Arnold with the schooner, sailed faster than the bateaux, arrived at St. Johns and by surprise possessed himself of the sloop before I could arrive with the bateaux. He also made prisoners of a sergeant and twelve men who were garrisoned at that place. It is worthy of remark, that as soon as General Arnold had secured the prisoners on board, and had made preparations for sailing, the wind, which but a few hours before was fresh in the south and well served to carry us to St. Johns, now shifted and came fresh from the north; and in about one hour's time, General Arnold sailed with the prize and schooner for Ticonderoga. When I met him with my party, within a few miles of St. Johns, he saluted me with a discharge of cannon, which I returned with a volley of small arms. This being repeated three times, I went on board the sloop with my party, where several loyal Congress healths were drank. We were now masters of Lake Champlain and the garrison depending thereon."

JOURNAL KEPT BY ELEAZER OSWALD ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN ¹

[Tuesday] May 23, 1775. Since that time [May 19] nothing material has happened. It is Col. [Benedict] Arnold's present design, that the sloop *Enterprize* (as she is called) and the schooner *Liberty* shall cruize on the lake, and defend our frontiers, 'till men, provision and ammunition are furnished to carry on the war.

1. "Oswald's Journal."

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] 5 ho. P.M., May 23d, [1775]

A copy of a recommendation and directions from the Continental Congress, signed by their Secretary, bearing date of the 18th instant, and certified by Henry Remsen, deputy chairman of the committee of New York, to be a true copy, relating to the artillery and stores now in Ticonderoga, was handed to the President, and read, and is in the words following, to wit:

[Here is inserted the resolve of the Continental Congress of May 18, 1775]

The President then gave some farther information relating to the matters mentioned in the said recommendation from the Continental Congress, and particularly what had been done by the committee of the city and county of New York; and also enjoined and gave it in charge from the chair to the members of this Congress that the business concerning the artillery and stores at Ticonderoga, and every thing else relating thereto, is to be considered and kept as matters of secrecy.

The subject matter of the said recommendation or directions from the Continental Congress was taken in consideration and debated, and thereupon.

Resolved, That the Congress will immediately comply with the direction of the Continental Congress respecting the cannon and stores at Ticonderoga, and the other matters recommended in their order of the eighteenth of May, instant: And

Ordered, That Messrs. David Clarkson, Alexander McDougall, Walter Livingston, Robert Yates, Henry Glen, Zephania Platt, Egbert Dumond, Peter Clowes, John Sloss Hobart, Paul Micheau and Gouverneur Morris, be a Committee to report to this Congress with all convenient speed, the method best adapted to carry the above Resolution into execution.

Benjamin Kissam, Esqr, dissented from the above resolution, and prayed his dissent might be entered on the minutes.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 9.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND ¹

At a meeting of the Committee of Observation for Talbot County, on the 23d of May, 1775, at the Court-House of the said County [at Easton].

A Letter from the Committee of Observation in Baltimore Town, bearing date May 20, 1775, and signifying that the Ship *Johnston*, belonging to Mr. [James] Gildart, of Liverpool, was loaded with Salt and Dry Goods, by the house of Messrs. Ashton, and bound to Chesapeake Bay, was read.

In consequence whereof, a deputation, consisting of eleven gentlemen, was appointed to wait on Mr. James Braddock, agent and store-keeper for Mr. Gildart, owner of the said Ship *Johnston*, to advise him of the information received, to request him to give a satisfactory account and state of all goods now in his hands, and not to assist or countenance, directly or indirectly, the landing of any goods from the said ship, or in any way to promote the sale thereof. On the whole, the deputation aforesaid had it in charge to require an answer from Mr. Braddock, as to the part he meant to act on this occasion, and whether he would

comply with their requisition, and to report the same to the Committee on Tuesday, the 30th instant, on which day they agreed to meet, unless the deputation should think it necessary to call a Committee sooner, in which case they were requested to give publick notice.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 682.

24 May

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Cambridge] May 24, 1775

Resolved, That it be recommended to [the Provincial] Congress immediately to take such order respecting the removal of the Sheep and Hay from Noddle's Island, as they may judge proper, together with the stock on the adjacent islands.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 763, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

Massachusetts Spy, WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1775

Worcester, May 24 [1775]

The week before last, the *Falcon* sloop of war, was cruising about Cape Cod, and meeting with a wood sloop, in ballast, seized her, but promising the Skipper to release him and his vessel if he would give information of any vessel that was just arrived from the West-Indies with a cargo on board, he at length told the Captain of the *Falcon* that there was a sloop at Dartmouth, which has just arrived; whereupon the Captain of the *Falcon*, instead of releasing the wood sloop, armed and manned her, and sent her in search of the West-Indiaman; they found the vessel lying at anchor, but her cargo was landed; however, they seized her and carried her off after putting part of their crew and some guns and ammunition on board. Notice of this getting on shore, the people fitted out a third sloop, with about thirty men and two swivel guns, and went in pursuit of these royal pirates, whom they come up with at Martha's Vineyard, where they lay at anchor at about a league's distance from each other; the first surrendered without firing a gun, our people after putting a number of hands on board, bore down upon the other, which by this time had got under sail, but the people in the Dartmouth sloop coming up with her, the pirates fired upon them; the fire was immediately returned, by which three of the pirates were wounded, among whom was the commanding officer; our people boarded her immediately, and having taken both sloops, carried them into Dartmouth, and sent the prisoners to Cambridge, from whence nine of them were yesterday brought to this Town.

PORTIA (ABIGAIL ADAMS) TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

24 May B[raintre]e 1775

Suppose you have had a formidable account of the alarm we had last Sunday morning [May 21]. When I rose about six oclock I was told that the Drums had been some time beating and that 3 allarm Guns were fired, that Weymouth Bell had been ringing, and Mr. Welds was then ringing. I immediately sent of[f] an express to know the occasion, and found the whole Town in confusion. 3 Sloops and one cutter had come out, and dropped anchor just below Great Hill.



Abigail Adams. By Benjamin Blyth, c. 1766.

It was difficult to tell their design, some supposed they were coming to German-town others to Weymouth. People women children from the Iron Works flocking down this Way – every woman and child above or from below my Fathers. My Fathers family flying, the Drs. in great distress, as you may well imagine for my Aunt had her Bed thrown into a cart, into which she got herself, and ordered the boy to drive her of[f] to Bridgwater which he did. The report was to them, that 300 hundred had landed, and were upon their march into Town. The allarm flew [like] lightning, and men from all parts came flocking down till 2000 were collected – but it seems their expedition was to Grape Island for *Levet's* hay. There it was impossible to reach them for want of Boats, but the sight of so many persons, and the firing at them prevented their getting more than 3 ton of Hay, tho they had carted much more down to the water. At last they musterd a Lighter, and a Sloop from Hingham which had six port holes. Our men eagerly jumpt on board, and put of[f] for the Island. As soon as they perceived it, they decamped. Our people landed upon [the] Island, and in an instant set fire to the Hay which with the Barn was soon consumed, about 80 ton tis said. We expect soon to be in continual alarms, till something decisive takes place. We wait with longing Expectation in hopes to hear the best accounts from you with regard to union and harmony &c. We rejoice greatly on the Arival of Doctor [Benjamin] Franklin, as he must certainly be able to inform you very perticularly of the situation of affairs in England. I wish you would [write] if you can get time; be as perticular as you *may*, when you write – every one here abouts come[s] to me to hear what accounts I have. I was so unlucky as not to get the Letter you wrote at New York. Capn. Beals forgot it, and left it behind. We have a flying report here with regard to New York, but cannot give any credit to it, as yet, that they had been engaged with the Ships which [Thomas] Gage sent there and taken them with great loss upon both sides.²

Yesterday we have an account of 3 Ships comeing in to Boston. I believe it is true, as there was a Salute from the other Ships, tho I have not been able to learn from whence they come. Suppose you have had an account of the fire which did much damage to the Warehouses, and added greatly to the distresses of the inhabitants whilst it continued. The bad conduct of General Gage was the means of its doing so much damage.³ . . .

Our House has been upon this alarm in the same Scene of confusion that it was upon the first – Soldiers comeing in for lodging, for Breakfast, for Supper, for Drink &c. &c. Sometimes refugees from Boston tierd and fatigued, seek an assilum for a Day or Night, a week – you can hardly imagine how we live.

“Yet to the Houseless child of want
our doors are open still.
And tho our portions are but scant
We give them with good will.”

1. L. H. Butterfield, ed., *The Adams Papers*, Series II, *Adams Family Correspondence* (Cambridge, 1963), vol. 1, 204, 205. Hereafter cited as Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*.

2. Mrs. Adams's skepticism about the New York report was well founded.

3. The fire in Dock Square on the night of May 17. Gage was blamed for its spread because he had taken the fire engines out of the hands of the inhabitants.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Cape Cod S W b Wt 5 Leagues
 Wednesday 24 at 4 A M weighed & run out of the Harbor at 7 dischargd the Pilot. at 8 the Light house W $\frac{1}{2}$ N 7 miles Stowd the small Bower Anchor. at 10 Musterd the Ships Company at 12 the Light house W b N $\frac{1}{2}$ N 3 leagues
 at 4 P M several Sail in sight. at 6 Pidgeon hill N W $\frac{1}{2}$ N 4 leagues Spoke his Majesty's Ship *Cerberus*. Brought too by order of Captn [James] Chads & sent our boat on board. at 7 made sail.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Cerberus*, JAMES CHADS, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 [In Massachusetts Bay]
 Wednesday 24 Light Airs & foggy at 4 A M saw the Land about Cape Ann bearing W N W 6 Lgs at 6 spoke his Maj's. Sloop *Otter* on her way from Boston to Virginia

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS,
H.M.S. *Nautilus*, NANTASKET ¹

Sir

Preston Boston May 24. 1775.

I am very glad you came in with the *Prosperous Amelia* Transport, many more are daily expected to arrive, and I would have you assist them to get in as they are most likely unacquainted with the Coast. The *Charming Nancy* is not yet arrived. As I find the Schooner with the Melasses which I had ordered Lieutt. Brown to carry to Salem, is not yet sailed, it will be necessary for you to stand in with her in order to deliver her into the Charge of the Custom house for the Security of the Kings Duties as she cannot be condemned.

You will continue to cruize until the Arrival of the *Charming Nancy* or until further Orders, for which purpose, if you have no occasion to come in before, I would have you anchor in Nantasket Road the 2d of June. Here are Reports that the Rebels have armed Vessels alongshore, it is certain they have fitted out a Bermudian Sloop and that she is cruising in Hell Gates.

I am &c

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 426, 427, MassHS Transcript.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston May 24th 1775.

Sir, The Bearer Mr. [Ichabod] Jones having exerted himself for the Service of Government, is threatened by the Inhabitants of the Eastern parts of this Province, to intercept and destroy his Vessels, by which means they will be rendered useless hereafter, his Settlement is at Machias where there are several Guns belonging to

the *Halifax* Schooner cast Ashore there; he thinks an Armed Vessel's being sent there to bring them away, may have a good effect, and prevent their fitting out Vessels from those parts to annoy his Majesty's Subjects, and to encourage the Inhabitants to the Eastward to bring fuel, Lumber &c to the Port of Boston; I am therefore to recommend this to you as a Matter that may be usefull to the Town and Garrison here: Mr. Jones further desires a Certificate, both from you and myself, that any Persons bringing Supplies to this Port they shall have free Permission to come in and go out, without Molestation.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Wednesday 9 ho.A.M., May 24th, 1775

Mr. David Clarkson, chairman of the committee appointed yesterday to report the methods best adapted to comply with the directions of the Continental Congress, respecting the cannon and stores at Ticonderoga, and the other matters recommended in their order of the 18th instant, delivered in the report of the said committee, which was read. And the said Report being again read, by paragraphs, was approved of and ordered to be entered on the minutes, and is in the words following, to wit:

We do report, that we conceive that it will be proper to appoint persons in whom this Congress can confide, to superintend the removal of the cannon and stores (mentioned in the minutes of the Grand Continental Congress,) to the south end of Lake George.

That it will be proper to furnish supplies of provisions to the garrisons now stationed, or hereafter to be stationed at those places.

That it will be proper to appoint a committee to estimate the expense of these services, and a committee to consider of ways and means for providing money for the purpose of defraying the same. And lastly,

That it will be proper to write a letter to the Governor and company of the English Colony of Connecticut, on the matters recommended in the minute aforesaid.

The said Committee had also prepared, and then reported a draft of the letter above mentioned, which was also read. [Adopted, and entered in the minutes of the afternoon.]

Benjamin Kissam, Esquire dissented from the said report and letter, and desired that his dissent might be entered on the minutes.

4 ho. P.M., May 24th. [1775]

The gentlemen who are Deputies from the city and county of Albany, at the request of the Congress, recommended, and the Congress nominated and appointed John N. Bleeker, Henry I. Bogert, George Palmer, Dirck Swart and Peter Lansingh, of the county of Albany, or any one or more of them, to superintend the removal of the cannon and stores (mentioned in the minutes of the Grand Continental Congress) to the south end of Lake George. And in case of the inability or refusal of those gentlemen, this Congress does authorize and request the sub-committee of the city and county of Albany to appoint proper persons to superintend the removal of the said cannon and stores to the place aforesaid.

The Congress then took into consideration that part of the report of the committee concerning the removal of the cannon and stores, which relates to the estimate of the expence of removing the same, and the ways and means of raising money to defray the expense thereof.

Ordered, That Messrs. David Clarkson, Alexander McDougall, Walter Livingston, Jacob Cuyler, Henry Glenn, Richard Montgomery, Egbert Dumond, Peter Clowes, John Sloss Hobart, Paul Micheau, Isaac Low, and Gouverneur Morris, be a committee for both those purposes, and that they make their reports on these respective matters with all convenient speed.

The draught of the Letter to the Governor and Company of the Colony of Connecticut, being read, paragraph by paragraph, was approved of, and ordered to be entered in the minutes, and is in the words following, to wit:

To the Honourable the Governor and Company of the English Colony of Connecticut.

Brethren: By a minute of the Grand Continental Congress, of the eighteenth of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, a copy whereof we do herewith transmit to you, we are informed that Ticonderoga hath been taken by sundry inhabitants of the northern Colonies; and from the minute aforesaid, we are assured that this measure was for the common safety of the American Colonies.

In pursuance of the directions contained in that minute, we have given the necessary orders for removing the cannon and stores (taken in that important fortress) to the south end of Lake George, and for securing them there, and we have appointed John N. Bleeker, Henry I. Bogert, Dirck Swart, George Palmer, and Peter Lansing, superintendents of this business. There is no doubt but that our brethren in Connecticut will feel great reluctance at the idea of ordering any of their troops to march within the bounds of this Colony, for the purpose of defending the Fort of Ticonderoga and the Cannon and Stores above mentioned at Fort George; but we pray you to cast away all fears of offending us on this occasion. We shall be happy to hear that you have placed a part of your forces in these posts, with intent to defend them until they shall be relieved by troops from this Colony.

In further pursuance of the directions of the Grand Congress, we have ordered provisions to be conveyed to Ticonderoga and Lake George, and we shall continue to furnish such supplies as we shall deem necessary.

You will be pleased, gentlemen, to appoint trusty commanders over your forces destined for the purposes above mentioned; and we do assure you, of our willingness that they shall take the command at those places while garrisoned by your troops.

We beg leave to assure you, that in this and all other matters, we will pay the highest attention to every recommendation of the Grand Continental Congress, and that we have the honour to be, gentlemen, [&c.].

P.S. We pray you to use every effort to preserve and improve the present peaceable dispositions of the Canadians and Indians, for which purpose we think it will

be necessary to keep up the strictest vigilance to prevent any incursions from being made into the Province of Quebeck.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the President, and transmitted with all convenient speed.

Ordered, That the Gentlemen who are Deputies from the City and county of Albany, be a committee to prepare a draught of a letter to John N. Bleeker, and the other four Agents for superintending the removal of the cannon and stores from Ticonderoga, and also a draft of instructions to the said agents; and that they prepare and bring in the same with all convenient speed.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 9–11.

WOOLSEY AND SALMON TO CAPTAIN ALEXANDER KENNEDY ¹

[Baltimore, May 24, 1775]

Your Ship *Baltimore Packet* is now Ready for Sea under [your] Command. We have only to Request your Proceeding with her to [Falm]outh in England with the first wind & on your arrival there Imme[diately] write Messrs Johnston & Cumming of London, also as soon as you [receive] orders to Proceed to any one Port of Di[s]charge give them Information [so that] they may be able to make the Necessary Insurance. We have only to [add] that we wish you safe & plesent Passage –

Yrs

W. S.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

25 May

INHABITANTS OF KITTERY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Province of the Massachuts Bay To the Honorable Provincial Congress that is to Set at Watertown to Transact the Publick Affairs of Said Province on Wednesday 31st of May 1775 – The Petition of the Inhabitants of the Town of Kittery in the County of York Humbly Shews

That the Town of Kittery in the County of York being a Frontier Town and Several Ships of War now riding at Anchor Directly Opposite to the Town having a Number of Marines on board and have given out that they will have provisions at all Events the Inhabitants from their threats are Obligated to Keep a constant watch; being in daily expectations of a Greater force being Sent this way in order to collect provisions & Deprive them of all their Property if not their lives; The River of Piscataqua being Navagable for large Ships For Miles it must be very Distressing to the Sea Ports; and whereas we have Sent one third part of our men capable to bear arms to Joyn the Provincial army, Such a Situation appears to leave us weak and defenceless; Therefore Your Petitioners for the Reasons Above mentioned, with many more than might be Added, Humbly pray, that some part of the forces may be ordered to this Town, under the same Regula-

tions with those that may Remain at the Head Quarters, or otherwise relieve your Petitioners as you in Your Wisdom Shall think fit and Your Petitioners Shall Ever Pray –

for and behalf of Said Town

W^m Leighton Tn Clerk

At A Legal Town meeting held in Kittery may 25th 1775 Voted that William Leighton Town Clerk Sign and forward the Above Petition for and in behalf of Said Town to the Provincial Congress

Attest W^m Leighton Tn Clerk

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 27.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1775

Cambridge, May 25

Last Sabbath [May 21] about 10 o'Clock A.M. an Express arrived at General [John] Thomas's Quarters in Roxbury, informing him that four Sloops (two of them armed) were sailed from Boston, to the South Shore of the Bay, and that a Number of Soldiers were landing at Weymouth. Gen. Thomas ordered 3 Companies to march to the Support of the Inhabitants. When arrived, they found the Soldiers had not attempted to land at Weymouth; but had landed on Grape-Island, from whence they were carrying off Hay on board the sloops. The People of Weymouth assembled on a Point of Land next to Grape Island. The distance from Weymouth Shore to said island was too great for small Arms to do Execution; nevertheless, our People frequently fired. The fire was returned from one of the Vessels with swivel Guns, but the Shot passed over our Heads, and did no Mischief. Matters continued in this State for several Hours, the Soldiers pulling the Hay down to the Water-Side, our People firing at the Vessel, and they now and then discharging swivel Guns. The Tide was now come in, and several Lighters which were aground, were got afloat, upon which our People, who were ardent for Battle, got on board, hoisted Sail, and bore directly down upon the nearest Point of the Island. The Soldiers and Sailors Immediately left the Barn, and made for their Boats, and put off from one End of the Island, whilst our People landed on the other. The Sloops hoisted Sail with all possible Expedition, whilst our People set Fire to the Barn, and burnt 70 or 80 Tons of Hay; then fired several Tons which had been pulled down to the Water-Side, and brought off the Cattle. – As the Vessels passed Horse Neck, a Sort of Promontory which extends from Germantown, they fired their Swivels and small Arms at our People pretty briskly, but without Effect, though one of the Bullets from their small Arms, which passed over our People, struck against a Stone with such Force, as to take off a large Part of the Bullet. Whether any of the Enemy were wounded, is uncertain, though it is reported three of them were. It is thought they did not carry off more than one or two Tons of hay.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Cerberus*, JAMES CHADS, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

Moord at Boston

Thursday 25 at 8 A M Boston Light house W N W 3 Lgs at 10 got a Pilot on bd pas'd by H M Ships *Mercury Nautilus & Falcon* at Anch'r in [Nan]tasket roads 1/2 past Saluted the Adr & Anchd wt Bt Br in 7 fm & Moord wt a Cable each way Castle William S E 1/2 S Fort point S W off Shore 1/2 M[ile] found riding here the *Preston Boyn Somerset Glasgow & Merlin*

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 25 May 1775

His Majestys Ship *Cerberus* with three Generals on Board arrived this day, and I have had the Honor to receive their Lordships Orders of the 2d and 28th of March and 25th April respecting the *Cerberus* and *Scorpion*,² and prohibiting the Exportation of Arms and Ammunition for six months from the 19th of April, together with their Lordship's Orders of the 5th and 15th of April, accompanying eighty printed Copies of two Acts of Parliament.³ Their Lordships may rely upon my causing them to be carried into execution with the utmost punctuality, so far as may depend upon myself and the Captains and Commanders of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels under my Command.

I have also received your Letters Feb: 20th Dup. and April 13th The last inclosing a Commission their Lordships have been pleased to sign appointing me Vice Admiral of the White.

I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 98, 99, MassHS Transcript.

2. These orders placed both vessels under his command; the *Scorpion*, after delivering Lord William Campbell at Charles Town.

3. The restraining acts, forbidding trade with any except Great Britain and the British West Indies, and forbidding fishing on the Newfoundland Banks.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Boston] 25th May 1775

I have this moment received Information that the Rebels intend this Night to destroy, and carry off all the Stock & on Noddles Island, for no reason but because the owners having sold them for the Kings Use: I therefore give you this Intelligence that you may please to order the guard boats to be particularly Attentive and to take such Other Measures as you may think Necessary for this night

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston 25 May 1775 9 at Night

The Guard boats have orders to keep the strictest look out; and I will direct an additional One to row tonight as high up as possible between Noddles Island

the Main, to Alarm in Case any attempt is made by the Rebels to go over; but I beg leave to observe to your Excellency that in My opinion A Guard upon the Island is the Most probable Means of preserving the Hay from being destroyed; However your Excellency May be assured all that the Ships can do shall be done to prevent the Rebels effecting their Design. I have the Honor to be with great regard and Esteem Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[*Preston Boston*] 25th [May 1775]

The Major Generals [William] Howe, [Henry] Clinton, and [John] Burgoyne, and the Acts of Parliament for restraining the Trade of the Colonies arrived from England.

Great Difficulties now arose in procuring Fuel, not only for present consumption but for the next Winter. The Committees of Safety prevented the Garrison being supplied either with firing or fresh Provisions, and pronounced all those who in any Manner assisted us Enemies to their Country, but indeed publick Restrictions for this purpose were altogether unnecessary, the bulk of the people being through wicked Misrepresentations, sufficiently disposed to distress the Kings forces: And this disposition among the Country people rendered our dependance for Fuel and fresh provisions very precarious.

It has already been mentioned that the Admiral had allowed all Coasting Vessels laden with any sort of Provisions or fuel to enter Boston Harbour without touching at Salem; but all Vessels from abroad laden with dutiable goods were as usual to enter at the Custom House at Salem, and then the Kings Ships (having Orders for that purpose) brought them round to Boston.

The Indulgence to the Coasters was however soon found ineffectual, for, under pretence of fears from their own Countrymen, very few cared to supply us, although the extravagant prices given for the Commodities wanted stimulated them to come in. But the Committees along the Coast to the Eastward presently took a certain method to hinder the Kings Army from being supplied, which was to seize all the Craft found so employed and imprison the People, and to direct that all coasting Vessels (except a few absolutely necessary to carry fuel to Marblehead, Salem &c) should be laid up, and their Sails and Ruders deposited in particular places; so that we had only two ways of getting firing, the uncertain one of intercepting their small Vessels creeping along shore, which now and then happened, and to take it by force.

The general indisposition of the Americans towards us appeared likewise in the affair of masts on which subject the Admiral wrote to Captn [Andrew] Barkley at Piscataqua & to Govr [Francis] Legge.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 98–102, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY,
H.M.S. *Scarborough*, PISCATAQUA ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 25 May 1775

I have received your Letters of the 10, 18 & 19 of May with their Inclosures. It would have been impossible for you to have brought away the Masts, when three hundred men were assembled to prevent it; but, suppose with the loss of Men you had effected it, the Consequences would have been destruction to every other Mast marked for the King; and I really do not at present see the use of the Governors acquainting you with a proceeding of the Rebels detrimental to his Majesty's Interest, when he at the same time had no request to make concerning it, and did not think it adviseable for you to attempt the preventing the Masts being carried higher up the River.

I very much approve and commend Lieutenant [Henry] Mowat's intrepid and Officerlike Conduct at Falmouth; The Behaviour of Mr Hogg also deserves great Commendations; That Transaction ought to be a caution to all Officers not to trust themselves in the Hands of Rebels, who carry on War like no other People upon Earth.

It was quite right to despatch the *Canceaux* to Halifax, as you was not apprized of the *Tartar* being there expressly for the purpose of guarding that Arsenal. The *St Lawrence* and *Halifax* armed Schooners lately purchased are also at Halifax fitting out. The Account of the Hay being burnt was brought here by the *Centurion* Sloop I have great pleasure in expressing my entire Approbation of your Proceedings since you have been at Piscataqua and am satisfied you will on ever occasion exert yourself for the good of the Kings Service.

Herewith you will receive an Order to seize all Provisions &c. I am &c.

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 427, 428, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO JOHN WENTWORTH, GOVERNOR OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE, PORTSMOUTH ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 25 May 1775

I am much obliged to your Excellency for your information concerning Mr [Edward] Parry, Agent to the Contractor for supplying Masts and Timber for his Maj's Navy. I do not recollect Mr Parry verbally desiring my Application to your Excellency to grant him a License to cut Masts and other Timber in the Kings Woods; I am sure he made no such request in writing; In either case I should readily have wrote to your Excellency for that purpose.

As the Rebels in general seem determined to distress his Majesty's Service by every Means in their Power, tho' eventually to their own Ruin, and those within your Excellency's do not think fit to allow the Masts already cut to be under care of the King's Ships, Mr Parry's Confinement during the Rebellion will be no great Prejudice to the King's Service although perhaps disagreeable to himself I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 428, 429, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO LIEUTENANT GEORGE DAWSON,
COMMANDING HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *Hope* ¹

You are hereby required and directed forthwith to proceed to Salem in his Majesty's Schooner under your Command and use your utmost Endeavours to put [into] Execution the Orders you will herewith receive for seizing and sending to Boston all Vessels with Provisions, Melasses, Salt, Arms and Ammunition &c.

Given under my hand on board his Majs. Ship *Preston* at Boston
25 May 1775.

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 429, 430, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

Att Single Anchor in Tarpolean Cove

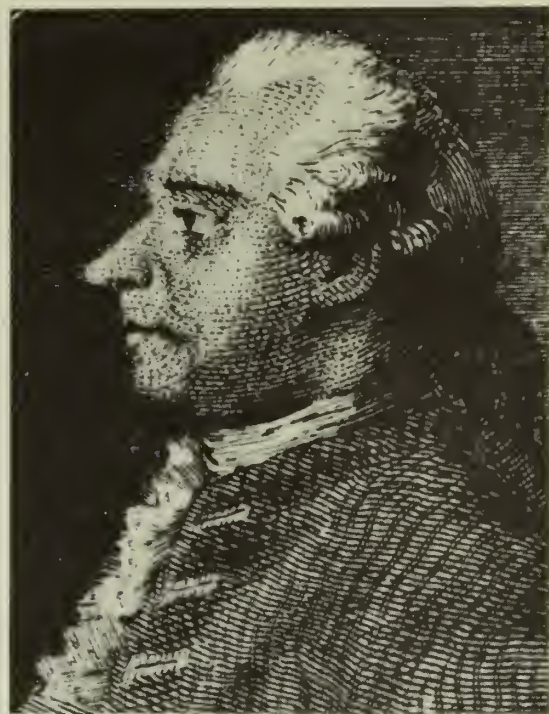
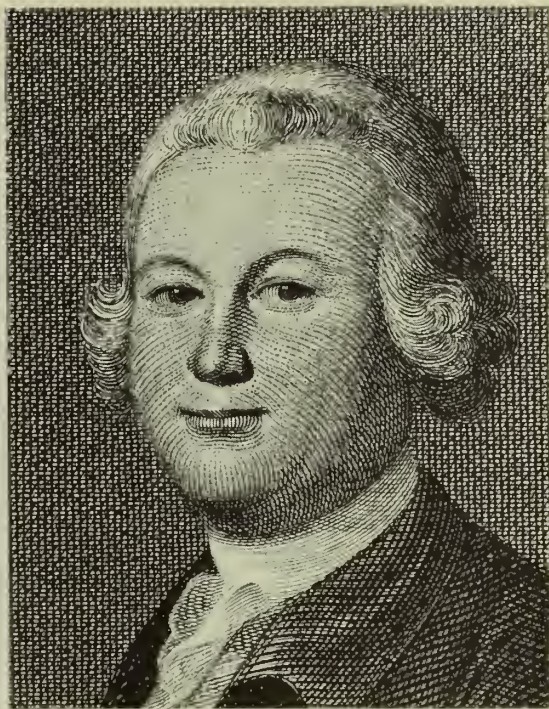
Thursdy 25 at 6 P M fird two Six pounders Shotted and Brot too a Schooner
from St Vincents

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT, TO THE MASSACHUSETTS
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Your letter of the Seventeenth Instant with the Inclosed resolve of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts Bay, was delivered to me by Colo [James] Easton, and communicated to the General Assembly, who have desired me to return their Congratulations on the Reduction of Ticonderoga, a Fortress truly Important, and to assure you they entertain a proper Sense of the Merit of those Officers and Soldiers by whose bravery and good Conduct it was achieved. As this Advantage was gained by the united Counsels and Enterprize of a number of private Gentlemen in your province – New Hampshire, New York, and this Colony, Prompted only by a zeal for the Liberty of their Country without Public Authority, to our Knowledge, and is of Great and general Importance to the united Colonies, it was thought best to take the Advice of the Continental Congress upon the Manner of treating it in future, both by the General Assembly of this Colony & the Committee of New York, as well as by you – Dispatches were accordingly sent to Philadelphia and the Sentiments of the Continental Congress thereon hath been receiv'd this day, by Express, with a Letter from the Committee of New York, Copies of which, enclosed, are herewith sent you

By them you will see, the present Custody of that Fortress is committed to the Province of New York, with the Assistance of the New England Colonies, if needed The General Assembly of this Colony beheld your Situation with Concern and a fixed Resolution to Contribute every thing in their power to Your Defence and preservation, and as far as apertains to them, are willing & desirous you should have the benefit of such Artillery as may be spared from the Fortresses of Crown point and Ticonderoga; but, as they do not consider themselves as intitled to the Command of those places, they cannot take upon themselves to give Orders for



(Top left) Jonathan Trumbull, Jr. By John Trumbull, 1792. (Top right) James Otis. By Asher B. Durand after Joseph Blackburn, 1823. (Bottom left) Benedict Arnold. After Pierre E. DuSimitière, 1783. (Bottom right) Silas Deane. After Pierre E. DuSimitière, 1783.

the removal of the heavy Cannon that may be spared, without the Concurrence of the other Colonies Interested in them

The Necessity of Securing and maintaining the Posts on the Lakes for the Defence of the Frontiers becomes daily more evident from the reiterated Intelligence we receive of the Plan formed by Our Enemies to distress us by Inroads of Canadians and Savages from the Province of Quebec upon the Adjacent Settlements, the enclosed Copy of a Letter from Our Delegates Attending at New York to communicate measures with the Provincial Congress in that City throws an Additional Light on this Subject and is thought worthy to be communicated to you. Whilst the Designs of our Enemies Against us, fill us with Concern, we cannot omit to observe the smiles of Providence upon us, in revealing their wicked Plans, and hitherto prospering the Attempts of the Colonies to frustrate them. With a humble reliance on the Continuance of Divine Favour and Protection to the Cause, of the Justice of which a Doubt cannot be entertained, The General Assembly of this Colony are ready to cooperate with the other Colonies in every Exertion for their Common Defence, and to contribute their Proportion of Men & other Necessarys for maintaining the Posts on the Frontiers or Defending or repelling Invasions in any other Quarter, agreeably to the Advice of the Continental Congress.

I am Gentn [&c.]

Jonⁿ Trumbull.

Hartford May 25 1775

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

JESSE ROOT TO SILAS DEANE ¹

Dear Sir on the 13th Inst. we Recd letters from [Bernard] Romans representing the Garreson at Ticondaroga in a feeble State both as to men & provisions requesting Men & Money – at the Same time the Govr. Recd a letter from [Ethan] Allin of like Import – whereupon we rallied Sent Col Charles Webb & Col Joshua Porter & Mr Barn[abas] Dean with £ 500 money escorted with Eight marines from this Town well Spirited & equipped ² – with directions to proceed to Albany to procure from thence what assistance they Could & then to proceed to Ticondaroga with all possible Expidition & to do every thing to Secure & preserve the acquisition – about four days ago the officers & Soldiers from Ticondaroga & Crown point were brought into this Town Consisting of about Sixty persons – and are herekept at the publick Expençe – The Troops are Continually marching for Boston – unanimity & firmness Continues to reign here you Cannot Conceive what universal Joy defused it self through every Breast & Triumph in every Countenance on publication of the glorious resolutions of the Continental Congress by Mr [Samuel] Mott – May that unerring Wisdom that guides the roling Speres through the unmeasurable Track of ether – that Mighty power that Sustains the Stupendious frame of Nature Inspire your venerable Body with all that Wisdom & firmness that is requisite to guide & direct the Important Concerns of the american Empire for

its Safety & preservation against all the Craft & power of Tiranny the Pope & the Divel In haste as the Post is waiting with the greatest esteem I am &c.

Jesse Root

Hartford May 25th A D 1775

P S inclosed is a Copy of a letter from Col. Porter & Webb Since they went from here – of the further acquisitions to the Northward the Post will inform

1. Deane Papers, ConnHS.

2. This is the first mention of American marines during the Revolutionary War period. Why there should be marines on May 13, 1775, more than a month before Connecticut even considered commissioning vessels of war, and why these marines should be found in the inland city of Hartford is difficult to comprehend. The theory that they might have been enlisted for service on Lake Champlain is untenable, as Governor Skene's schooner, subsequently named the *Liberty*, was not taken up at Skenesborough until the very day that Roman's letter arrived in Hartford, so there could have been no knowledge of her capture. In Benedict Arnold's letter of May 26, 1775, to the Massachusetts Committee of Safety, they are identified as eight gentlemen "who are Seamen." It is probable, therefore, that the use of the word "marines" had been a figure of speech by Jesse Root, whose rhetorical flourishes are apparent throughout his letter.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Thursday 9 ho. A.M., May 25, 1775.

The Committee appointed yesterday for that purpose, brought in and reported a draft of a letter, and also a draught of instructions to the agents for superintending the removal of the cannon and stores from Ticonderoga.

Mr. [Isaac] Low informed the Congress that he had been informed that some of the inhabitants of the northern counties in this Colony have designs of making incursions into the Province of Quebec, and that, therefore, he moved (and was seconded by Abraham Yates, Esqr.) that a letter be wrote to the inhabitants of the northern counties, to the same purport as the postscript to the letter to the Governor and Company of Connecticut; and the same being unanimously agreed to,

Ordered, That Mr. Low, Mr. John Williams, Mr. [William] Marsh, Mr. Robert Yates, and Mr. [Gouverneur] Morris, be a Committee to prepare and report to the Congress a draft of such a letter. . . .

A written request from the gentlemen who are a committee from the House of Representatives of the Colony of Connecticut,² requesting a conference with Mr. [John Morin] Scott and Colo. [Abraham] Ten Broeck, was read.

Ordered, That Mr. Scott and Colonel Ten Broeck have leave to wait on the said committee immediately. . . .

Messrs. Ten Broeck and Scott, who with leave, went to confer with Messrs. [Nathaniel] Wales, [Thaddeus] Burr, and [Pierpont] Edwards, the Committee of the House of Representatives of the Colony of Connecticut, returned and reported from their memory to this Congress, that they had conferred with those gentlemen, who informed them that they had detained Mr. President's Letter to their Governor and company, relative to Ticonderoga, till this Congress could be informed of the following facts, to wit: That their Assembly is not now sitting; that their recess was supplied by a council of war, with limited powers; that the

said council have only authority to direct the movement of their troops but not to appoint any command.

That their Assembly had destined three hundred men to be quartered at Salisbury, who probably would be allotted to assist in maintaining the fortress at Ticonderoga, if necessary; that the persons who had taken that post were not any part of their regular troops, but adventurers; that among these Colonel [Benedict] Arnold, from Massachusetts, and Captain [Asa] Douglas, who lives on the line between that Colony and this, were present at the capture; that Captain Douglass was a principal, and had great merit in the success of the enterprise; that almost all the rest of the adventurers were inhabitants of this Colony; that they were confident their council of war would not take upon them to appoint any person to take the command of that post; that besides, they were apprehensive that the people now there probably would dispute the delivering up that fortress to any person appointed by their council of war; that it was impossible for the said council of war to grant us any other assistance than the three hundred men above mentioned, which they judged insufficient to maintain that post; that Captain Douglass is guardian of the Stockbridge Indians, and had great influence over and almost the entire direction of them; that he is a person of great influence in that quarter; that he had raised for the enterprise two hundred men at his own expense, and could in ten or twelve days augment them to seven hundred, all of which except one hundred would be inhabitants of this Colony; that they recommended Capt. Douglass as meriting the attention of this Congress; that they thought it necessary for this Congress to appoint to the command of the above-mentioned post, and that in that case their council of war would have it in their power to supply the above mentioned assistance for that service.

Which Report being made, Mr. Scott moved that the letter to the Governor and Company of the English Colony of Connecticut be withheld and the subject matter thereof reconsidered. This motion being seconded, a debate thereon arose, after which the question was put, whether the said letter should be withheld, and the subject matter thereof reconsidered. And on a division, the said question carried in the negative.

The draft of a Letter to the agents for superintending the removal of the cannon and stores from Ticonderoga was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Provincial Congress, at New York, May 25th, 1775.

Gent— By the recommendation of the Continental Congress respecting Ticonderoga, already forwarded to the committee of your county, and by our resolution thereon, you will readily perceive the expediency of appointing proper persons to superintend the business therein mentioned, who will undertake it with cheerfulness, diligence, and dispatch. This Congress being convinced that persons in the vicinage of Albany would be most proper to put in execution the directions of the Congresses, left it to the Deputies of your county, now here convened, to propose some fit men for the approbation of this Congress. And you, Gentlemen, were accordingly nominated and appointed. We hope, therefore, that you will not hesitate, but enter upon what is enjoined by both Congresses with all expedition;

and in doing of which you will please to have regard to the enclosed instructions for your better government.

We are, Gentlemen, [&c.]

N.B. You will please to be as secret as the nature of the work will allow you.

To Messrs. John N. Bleeker and Henry I Bogert, of the City of Albany, and George Palmer and Dirck Swart, of Still water, and Peter Lansingh of Saraghtoga, in the county of Albany.

The draft of instructions to the said agents was also read and approved, and are in the words following, to wit :

Instructions for John N. Bleeker, Henry I. Bogert, Dirck Swart, George Palmer, and Peter Lansingh, commissioners or agents to superintend and put in execution the recommendation of the Grand Continental Congress, of the 18th of May, 1775, relative to Ticonderoga, &c.

1st. You will immediately endeavour to have a meeting together if possible, and see which of you it will suit best, and can most conveniently, reasonably and expeditiously discharge this trust reposed in you.

2. After that is fixed upon among yourselves, that you will then immediately repair to those places, either by yourselves or such fit persons as you know can and will complete the business effectually and reasonably.

3. It will be necessary that you have an armourer or engineer whose skill ought to determine which of the cannon are useless, that such may remain where they be, and no expence arise from them.

4. One at least of you ought to attend from time to time at the different stations, as occasion may require.

5. You will please, whenever you employ labourers, wagoners, or others in this service, that you engage none, if it possibly can be avoided, but industrious and sober men, and such as have or will sign the association.

6. You will agree with every man for the sum to be allowed him for his wages, and show the resolution of Congress of yesterday respecting the mode of payment, that no person may be ignorant of that point. You will also keep books of accounts and make exact entries and take just and true vouchers of all the expenses and proceedings, so that you may be able to swear as to the rectitude of your conduct for the satisfaction of the public when thereunto required.

7. You will endeavour as much as in you lies, to cultivate harmony and friendship between the New-England troops and all others that are or may be engaged by the Northern Governments in those services, and such persons as or may be employed by this government.

8. That you will keep exact lists and inventories of all such artillery, ordnance and stores, likewise their condition, as you may find on your arrival at those posts, vizt. Ticonderoga and Lake George – of all such things as may be left there or removed from there.

9. You will be also careful in providing boats and materials for water carriage in transporting such cannon as should upon examination be thought useful, to the south end of Lake George.

10. It may be necessary to inform you that there is lately sent up from this city, for the use of the people at the garrisons, and others engaged in these services, one hundred barrels of pork and some stores and materials, of which an inventory will be handed to you; you will take all these things under your care, direction and inspection, and see that they are forwarded and properly used and applied according to the true intention, and also procure such other provisions, materials and things, as may be deemed by you absolutely necessary to fulfill the design the Grand Continental and this Congress have in view.

11. It is the determination of this Congress not to countenance any person to make any incursions into Canada, and in order to prevent as much as in us lies any projects of that kind, you are hereby directed to withhold any succours or supports from any person or persons whomsoever for such an expedition.

Ordered, That the said Letter and Instructions be engrossed and signed by the President, and transmitted with all convenient speed.

Benjamin Kissam, Esqr., dissented to the said letter and instructions, and desired that his dissent might be entered on the minutes.

5 ho. P.M., May 25, 1775

The committee appointed this morning to prepare a draught of a letter to the inhabitants of the northern counties, to the same purport as the postscript to the letter to the Governor and Company of the Colony of Connecticut, reported such draft; and the same being taken into consideration and amended, was unanimously changed into a resolution, in the words following, to wit:

Whereas, the enemies of American Liberty are indefatigable in their endeavours to disunite these Colonies, and in the prosecuting of this measure evil minded persons may insinuate that the northern Colonies have hostile intentions against our fellow subjects in Canada,

Resolved, That this Congress do most earnestly recommend it to all persons whatsoever not to commit any hostilities against the people of that country; and do hereby declare to the world that we do consider every such step as infamous, and highly inimical to all the American Colonies.

Ordered, That the above resolution be published.

Whereas, this Congress has resolved to comply with the direction of the Continental Congress, respecting the cannon and stores at Ticonderoga, and the other matters recommended in their Order of the eighteenth of May instant, and wrote a letter to the Governor and Company of the Colony on that subject,

Resolved, That it is necessary that a letter on the same subject be wrote to the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, and a like letter to the Colony of New Hampshire: and

Ordered, That the committee who drew and reported the draft of a letter to the Governor and Company of the Colony of Connecticut, be a Committee to prepare a draft of a letter to the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, and a draft of a like Letter to the Colony of New-Hampshire, and that they proceed to prepare and report such drafts immediately.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I.

2. This committee announced its presence on the afternoon of May 24, 1775.

New York Journal, THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1775

New York, May 25.

Friday night last [May 19] Capt. Reynolds arrived here from Portsmouth, in New Hampshire: On Monday the 15th instant, off Cape Anne, he was boarded by Capt Greeves,¹ in a tender, who had come out of Boston the day before, and informed him that three transports arrived there the 6th instant from England, with troops, and that many more were hourly expected; that several vessels were then in sight, which he imagined was part of the fleet, and several guns had been heard in the offing.

Yesterday Dr. Myles Cooper, President of the College of this City, sailed for Bristol in the *Exeter*, having remained for near two weeks before, on board the *King Fisher*, commanded by Capt. [James] Montagu, where he thought fit to shelter himself from the resentment of a people, who consider him as the writer of several pieces highly injurious to the liberties of America. — The Rev. Dr. Chandler,² and the Rev. Mr. Cook, go passengers with him.

1. Lieutenant Thomas Graves, commanding H.M. Schooner *Diana*.

2. Rev. Thomas B. Chandler of Elizabethtown, N.J.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, May 25, 1775

The Congress met according to adjournment and agreeable to the order of the day again resolved itself into a committee of the whole to take into their farther consideration the state of America, and after some time spent therein, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Samuel] Ward reported from the committee that they had come to certain resolutions respecting New York, which he was desired to report, but not having gone through the rest of the business referred to them, the committee desired him to move for leave to sit again. The resolutions being severally read and agreed to are as follows:

1. *Resolved*, that a post be immediately taken and fortified at or near King's bridge in the colony of New York, that the ground be chosen with a particular view to prevent the communication between the city of New York and the country from being interrupted by land.

2. *Resolved*, that a post be also taken in the highlands on each side of Hudson's River and batteries erected in such manner as will most effectually prevent any vessels passing that may be sent to harrass the inhabitants on the borders of said river; and that experienced persons be immediately sent to examine said river in order to discover where it will be most adviseable and proper to obstruct the navigation.

3. *Resolved*, That the militia of New York be armed and trained and in constant readiness to act at a moments warning; and that a number of men be immediately Embodied and Kept in that city and so disposed of as to give protection to the inhabitants in case any insult should be offered by the troops, that may land there, and to prevent any attempts that may be made to gain possession of the city and interrupt its intercourse with the country.

4. *Resolved*, That it be left to the provincial congress of New York to determine the number of men sufficient to occupy the several posts above mentioned, and also that already recommended to be taken at or near lake George, as well as to guard the City, provided the whole do not exceed the number of three thousand men, to be commanded by such officers as shall be thereunto appointed by said provincial congress; and to be governed by such rules and regulations as shall be established by sd Congress until farther order is taken by this Congress; Provided also that if the sd provincial congress should be of opinion that the number proposed will not be sufficient for the several services above recommended, that the sd congress report their sentiments upon this subject to this Congress as soon as may be.

5. *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the sd provincial congress that in raising those forces they allow no bounties or cloathing, and that their pay shall not exceed the establishment of the New England colonies.

6. *Resolved*, That it be further recommended to the provincial Congress aforesd that the troops be enlisted to serve until the last day of December next, unless this Congress shall direct that they be sooner disbanded.

A motion being made for an addition to the foregoing Resolutions, a debate arose thereon and after some debate the same was referred till to Morrow, to which time Congress adjourned.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 58-61.

WILLIAM REYNOLDS TO GEORGE FLOYD NORTON ¹

Dear Norton

Virginia 25th May 1775

My last was the 20th April P Capt McCunn since wch I am favour'd with your two letters of 17th Jany and 18th March the last P Capt Robertson, who went up Rappahanock yesterday. I observe what you say relative to that unhappy Circumstance of the Tea, believe me my friend that matter has not given me a little Concern & sorry I was to observe some other disagreeable Resolves lately published from Gloster owing to your Fathers letter of Justification not being published the first week after the Arrival of the *Virginia*, which I understand your Brother was persuaded from doing. I heartily agree with you that Prentis was the Person who ought to have suffer'd severely for his neglect in not countermanding that order. I was one of the Committee on the Arrival of that Ship, and exerted my utmost Endeavours, making use of every Argument to excuse yr Fathers Conduct, which was construed partiality & I was accordingly left out at the next Choice of Committee Men, a matter of little moment to me I can assure you, for I never wish to fill a place where I cannot speak my sentiments without Censure. I meant the Resolves previous to those in August, which you say you never read, there I cannot altogether acquit you, as you must have been remiss in not noticing them. I am sensible the obtaining leave of the Commissioners to reland the Tea when the Ship was at Gravesend, woud have been attended with a good deal of trouble & Expence, but as things have turned out I do sincerely wish it had been done, I never thought your Father had any other design

in shipping the Tea but to comply strictly with the order of his Correspondent, who behaved ungenerously in involving your house in a difficulty he might so easily have prevented. You say your friends did not treat you well in not writing you sooner the unhappy fate of that Ship. I fully expected your Brother wou'd have wrote your Father particularly or I undoubtedly shou'd have done it. I believe he was at the time unwell & under a good deal of concern, beside the determination on the Ship was for sometime in suspence. I am fully persuaded, indeed am convinced if your Brother & Mr Prentis on their first hearing of the Arrival of the Tea, had appeard active in destroying it, the People wou'd have look'd over it and the Tea Ship been allowed to load. I am warmly attached to your Brother, & from the many obligations I am under to your Father & Mother. Gratitude & the sincere regard I have for the Interest of your house wou'd tempt me to go any lengths to serve you, but I am really sorry to be obliged to say your Brothers Conduct is not so pleasing to the People in general as I cou'd wish to be sure he has a most difficult part to act a Man situated as he is to collect money and at the same time solicit Consignments must be posses'd of a great deal of patience & moderation not sometimes by an unguarded Expression to disoblige, for you must well know the family Connections in this Colony are so numerous, that if a person offends one they dont know where it may stop. I am sorry to find by your letter & the late papers that matters are not likely to be accomodated our Assembly are to meet the 1st day of next Month but suppose will be soon dissolved as I apprehend the Governor has nothing agreeable to propose he has made himself exceedingly disagreeable to the People by his late behaviour in regard to the powder & his letters wrote home, it is said he has wrote to General [Thomas] Gage for a Regiment to guard him and if they shou'd come, God knows what will be the consequence for I am satisfied if they are quarter'd on the Inhabitants of this Town or Williamsburg it will inflame the minds of the People so sufficiently, that I dread the thought of what may happen, the rifle Men in the upper Counties are prepared to assist us at the shortest Notice O that the wicked cursed Ministry wou'd but relent, ere it be too late and save a number of poor innocent People who must unhappily fall Victims to the designs of a few Men who are a disgrace to human nature. I shall endeavour to give Esten & Robertson all the Assistance in my power tho' am really fearfull Tobo will not answer at the high price it is now selling at. In your last you dont mention a word about Tobacco. I wrote your J.N. & Co 16th past by this same opportunity expecting the Ship wou'd sail sooner as this goes by the way of Glasgow I can't send you the papers, Mrs. Reynolds & myself are exceedingly obliged to you for your kind wishes towards us, how long we may live to enjoy them from the present complexion of Affairs is very uncertain, pray present our respects to your Mother & ca. & be assured that I remain unalterably Yours [&c.]

[P.S.] pray remember me to Mr Withers, I am obliged to you for the News paper, but you made a mistake instead of inclosing the Fishery bill you send me the Merchts Petition. Mr Cary lives at New Castle at present where he keeps a Store in which your Brother & myself are equally concerned.

26 May

PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS TO THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS
OF NEW YORK ¹

Watertown May 26th. 1775

Resolved that the following Letter be Sent to the Provincial Congress of the Colony of New York now sitting in that Colony

Gentn Inclosed are Coppys of a Letter from Colo [Benedict] Arnold and a List of Military Stores at Ticonderoga &c

You Cannot fail to Observe that Mr Arnold for the Defence of this Colony is endeavouring that such Ordnance as he Judges Can be Spared from that Quarter should be transported to the Army in this Colony

this Step is taken in Consequence of Order given him by our Committee of Safety perhaps this may appear to You extraordinary; but we trust you will Candidly overlook such a mistake (if it is one) being made in the hurry and Confusion of War and we most Solemnly declare to you that this Congress and the inhabitants of this Colony are at the utmost remove from any Disposition or Design to make any the least infraction upon or usurpation of the Jurisdiction of any of our Sister Colonys and if any of those Cannon &c taken at the Lake Champlain Should happen through the Exertions of Enterprising Spirits to be brought within the allowed Limits of this Colony and Come to our use we shall hold ourselves accountable for them to the Representation of the Continent; and whenever they shall inform us that they are more needed for the general defence at any other part of the Continent then in this Colony we shall Endeavour that they be removed thither with the utmost Dispatch.

As to the Expediency and policy of endeavouring to maintain those old Fortresses near lake Champlain, or abating them and erecting others in some other places upon the Same Lake or abandoning those Posts and bringing off all the ordnance and warlike Stores in those parts we Conceive that the advice of the Continental Congress ought to be obtained and we have therefore addressed them in the most pressing manner being of opinion that the maintaining a post there is absolutely necessary to the defence of your and all the New England Colonys

Gentlemen and Brethren Could You have seen the horrid Devastation and Carnage in this Colony Committed by Ministerial Troops those sons of violence – who have got some footing in this Colony – the breach of a most Solemn treaty with Respect to the inhabitants of Boston when they had Surrendered their Arms and put themselves wholly in the power of a military Commander Relying upon his Faith then pledged that they should immediately Depart the T[o]wn with their effects as Stipulated which was no sooner done then they were not only Refused leave to Carry out the most valuable part of those Effects but their persons Detained under the most idle pretences and Suffered only to Scatter from their prison a few in a day hardly to be seen or noticed – we say Gentn Coud you see and Realize these Sceens of Distress you Could not refrain one moment from doing Every thing in Your

power to prevent the like Distress from happening to your metropolis, And availing Your selves of every Article which our Enimys Can improve with the least advantage to them for effecting the like Desolation horrors & insults on the inhabitants of your own City and Colony or which might enable you to make the most effectual defence

have you not Gentlemen divers of those articles as it was under your hand if you should delay securing them until they Should be out of your power and within a few days you should behold those very materials improved in murdering you and your selves perishing for the want of them will not yr Chagrin and regret be intolerable Brethren Pardon our importunity It is our own case, We behold Castle William and realize the ample Warlike Provisions and apparatus thairin held by our enemies to our infinite and inexpressible Mortification We wish to heaven that you may be timely admonished by the consequences of our own Delays

[Endorsed] passed

1. Mass Arch., vol. 193, 245.

Essex Journal, FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1775

Newburyport, May 26 [1775]

Last Tuesday evening [May 23] a barge belonging to the man of war lying at Portsmouth, rowing up and down the river to make discoveries with two small officers and six seamen, the tars not liking the employ, tied their commanders, then run the boat ashore, and were so impolite as to wish the prisoners good night, and came off. The officers soon got loose and rowed themselves back to the ship.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO MIDSHIPMAN JAMES MOORE, COMMANDING HIS MAJESTY'S ARMED SCHOONER *Margaretta*¹

Whereas his Excellency the Governor hath represented to me that some of the Inhabitants of the Eastern parts of this Province have threatened to intercept and destroy the Vessels of Mr Ichabod Jones, who has engaged to supply the Garrison at Boston with Fuel and Lumber; and whereas it is necessary to encourage as much as possible the bringing in Supplies of these Articles and of Provisions for the use of the Army, Navy, and Inhabitants of the Town, and to Protect the Persons and Property of those who are so usefully employed. You are therefore hereby required and directed to take under your Convoy the five Vessels belonging to Mr Ichabod Jones, and any others bound to the Eastward, and proceed with them to Mechias, where you are to remain for their Protection while they are lading, and as soon as they are ready to come away again you are to return with them to Boston; Using your utmost Endeavours to take or destroy all armed Vessels that are acting illegally or that are annoying any of his Majesty's loyal and peaceable Subjects.

And whereas I am informed the Guns of the late *Halifax* Schooner have been taken up, and are now in the possession of some persons at Mechias, you are to endeavour to get the said Guns, and bring them to Boston, assuring the present Possessor that Salvage for them shall be paid to himself or to any Person

he shall order to receive it either in Boston or Halifax. And in the Management of this Business Mr Jones will give you all the Information and Assistance he can.

Given under my hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston* at Boston the 26 May 1775

Sam^l Graves

1. Grave's Conduct, Appendix, 430,431, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Preston at Boston 26 May 1775

Mr. [Ichabod] Jones has delivered to me your Excellency's Letter of the 24th. I have directed an armed Schooner ² to take Mr Jones and any other Vessels bound to Mechais under Convoy. I have also ordered the Officer to defend them if they should be attacked.

Mr. [William] Tyng carried a written Declaration from me that all Persons bringing Supplies to Boston shall pass without molestation. I will give Mr Jones a Certificate to the same purpose, and with great pleasure assist in any other Measures your Excellency may suggest for the Publick Good.

I am &c.

Sam^l Graves

[Enclosure]

Declaration given to Mr. Jones

These to certify whom it may concern that I will allow all Vessels laden with Provisions, Lumber, Fuel, Wheat, Oats, or other Grain, Hay and Straw, to enter Boston Harbour, to dispose of their cargoes, and to depart again without Molestation.

Given under my hand 26 May 1775

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 431, 432, MassHS Transcript.

2. His Majesty's Armed Schooner *Margaretta*, commanded by Midshipman James Moore.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[*Preston*, Boston] 26th [May 1775]

There was however in Boston a Mr Ichabod Jones, who, having some property about Machias, imagined from his acquaintances and influence with the People there that he could furnish the Army with a considerable quantity of Firewood, he accordingly entered into a Contract for that purpose, and the General applied to the Admiral for an armed Vessel to go with and protect such Vessels as should be sent with Mr Jones on this Service: The *Margueritta* armed Schooner was appointed and had orders accordingly, being manned and equipped as expressed in the Admirals Letter to Mr Secretary Stephens; But the event proved how totally mistaken Mr Jones was in the temper of his Countrymen, and also shewed what we had generally to expect.

The restraining Acts were distributed among the Fleet with the Admirals Orders to send all Vessels seized either by virtue of the Acts, or by the Admirals

particular Orders to Boston: All Vessels laden with Lumber, Melasses or Salt were directed to be brought in.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 102, MassHS Transcript.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Crown Point 26th May 1775 –

My Last was of the 23d Instant. I then Advised you of the Situation of Matters here: Since which, there has been no Material Alteration: Verry few men have Arrived; We have fixed the Sloop with Six Carriage & Twelve Swivel Guns: the Schooner with Four Carriage & Eight Swivels, both Vessels are in good Order & Tolerably well manned, Eight Gentlemen having arriv'd from Hartford, who are Seamen, I have sent two 10 Inch Iron Mortars, two 8 Inch Brass Mortars & two 8 Inch Howitzers to Ticonderoga, to be forwarded to Fort George, You may Depend on my Sending the Cannon from this place as Soon as Possible. There are three 13 Inch Iron Mortars here. I beg to know what I Shall do with them. I have Receivd Large Donations of Flour, Pork, Peas &c: from Albany, near 70 Barrels, & I am Informed, there is a Large Quantity On the Road from that Place, & a Quantity Supplied from Connecticut – The Advice I Receivd from [Isaac] Butterfield, & Communicated in the Postscript of my Last of the 23d Instant prove to be premature. I have good Intelligence from a Batteau immediately from St Johns, which place She Left the 10th Inst. that the Regulars were return'd to Chamblee. I am [&c.]

Bened^t Arnold

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 247.

SAMUEL STRINGER, CHAIRMAN PRO. TEM. OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, TO THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[Extract]

Albany Committee Chamber, 26th May 1775

We now shall take notice of the New-York committee's letter to us of the 20th inst., enclosing the resolutions of the Continental Congress; from which we find that the reduction of Ticonderoga, by our forces, is approved of, and recommending us to proceed, with all possible dispatch, with a sufficient body of forces, &c. to the northward, to remove the cannon and stores from Ticonderoga to the south end of Lake George. We are now busy to raise two companies, each company composed of fifty men, in order to go upon said expedition; who we expect will be in readiness to march in two or three days. But, gentlemen, there are a number of very material difficulties that immediately arise: we have no ammunition; all the powder already gone up, with what we can possible collect yet among us, will not amount to above 250 pounds; and with so small a quantity, it is impossible for us to do anything of consequence.

Nor can we possibly conceive how the Provincial forces can maintain these northern posts or withstand the attack of the British Troops from Quebec, who are, from the best intelligence we can collect, preparing as fast as possible to come down in order to retake these places from us – an enterprise, if by them, under-

taken and completed, will introduce our enemies into the very bowels of our country. We beg of you, gentlemen, without delay, to take these important matters into your most serious and immediate consideration, and afford us the necessary assistance in this our distressed situation; and send us up, with all possible speed, a sufficient quantity of powder, without which nothing can possibly be done. We likewise stand in need of blankets, pitch, tar, oakum, nails, spikes, gin, ropes, camp kettles, entrenching tools, &c. and some rice, oatmeal, barley &c.; also, for the sloop and schooner, two mates, two gunners, two gunner's mates, two boatswains, and eighteen seamen, agreeable to Col. [Benedict] Arnold's list copy enclosed no. 15, all which you'll be pleased to cause to be sent up to us with all possible dispatch . . .

We would mention another matter to you, which, in our humble opinion, requires your immediate consideration, that as the vessel from St. John's has lately been taken by our forces, and whereof the Continental Congress have had no intelligence, on the 18th instant, when they entered into the resolution respecting Ticonderoga, and removing the stores and cannon from thence to Lake George, whether it would not be expedient to fortify the latter instead of the former, as Ticonderoga is by far the strongest and most important fortress.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, II, 42-43.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Friday, 9 ho. A.M., May 26th, 1775.

Captain Asa Douglas, by a message in writing directed and delivered to the President, requested to be admitted to the Congress, to communicate a matter of some moment.

Ordered, That the doorkeeper desire Mr. Douglas to attend.

Captain Asa Douglas attending at the door, was called in and heard; and Messrs. Lewis Graham, Walter Livingston, Joseph Robinson, and Henry Williams, are appointed a committee to receive such further information from the said Asa Douglas, as he may have to communicate, and to know what he expects of this Congress, and report the same to this Congress.

Mr. [David] Clarkson, chairman of the committee appointed yesterday for that purpose, reported a draft of a letter to the committee of safety for the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, and to the committee of correspondence for the Colony of New Hampshire; and the same being read and approved of, is in the words following, to wit:

Brethern— Having received a minute of the Grand Continental Congress, of which we send you a copy herewith, we wrote a letter to the Governor and Company of the Colony of Connecticut, of which we also send you a copy.

We do not doubt of your ready concurrence in the measures recommended by that august body, in which we do entirely acquiesce.

We pray you to act on this occasion with prudence and expedition, especially as we have received intimations from our brethern on Connecticut, that they cannot send a sufficient force for the purposes mentioned to them in our letter. And

we beg leave to assure you that we are, affectionately your friends and brethern in the generous cause of freedom

We are, Gentlemen [&c.]

New-York, 26th May 1775. In Provincial Congress.

To Joseph Warren, Esqr. and others, the Committee of Safety for the Colony of Massachusetts Bay.

A copy of the above to the committee of correspondence for the Colony of New-Hampshire.

Ordered, That two copies of the said letter be engrossed, signed by the President, and transmitted with all convenient speed, one directed to Joseph Warren, Esqr. and others, the committee of safety for the Colony of Massachusetts Bay; and the other to the committee of correspondence for the Colony of New-Hampshire.

Benjamin Kissam, Esqr. dissented from the said letters.

Ordered, That copies of the proceedings of this Congress, in pursuance of the minutes of the Continental Congress of the 18th May instant, be transmitted to the Delegates from this Colony at the Continental Congress.

Mr. [Henry] Williams, from the Committee appointed to confer with Asa Douglas, returned a report in the words following, to wit:

1. The purport of Mr. Douglas's desiring to be heard by this Congress, was to take the sense of the Congress whether they would choose to receive the Letter he brought from Collo. [Ethen] Allen for the Continental Congress, or whether he ought to proceed with the Letter to the Continental Congress.

2. He was requested by the troops who took Ticonderoga, Crown Point, &c. to solicit this Congress would take their services into consideration, and reward them with money or provisions, as they shall think meet.

3. He was desired by a number of the Officers of King's district, to apply to this Congress to appoint him the commander of such forces as are or may be raised in that district

4. He begs leave to inform this Congress that he has expended £18 in advancing money to the troops and defraying the charges of his journey in going to Ticonderoga and in coming here.

Ordered, That the said report lay on the table for the perusal of the members.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 13-14.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT,
COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Moor'd in the East River New York abreast the City
Friday 26 A M at 5 weigh'd and came to sail at 7 run over the inner Bar had
 4¼ fms water. at ½ past 9 came to in the East River off the City
 of New York in 7 fms water. at 12 sailed hence the *Kings Fisher*
 P M Veer'd away & Moor'd a Cable each way. Unbent Sails

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N., TO CADWALLADER COLDEN, LIEUTENANT
GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK ¹

Sir

Asia at New York May 26, 1775

I send this to inform You of the Arrival of His Majestys' Ship *Asia* (under my Command) off the City of New York, and at the same Time to acquaint You, that you may depend upon my Endeavours, on your application, to give every such Aid as may be Necessary towards supporting the legal Authority of Government, and ensuring the Safety of His Majesty's faithful Subjects in the Province of New York to which End, I shall be at all Times ready to wait upon, and consult with You, whenever you may think that I may be able by Means of the Kings Ship (under my Command) to afford any assistance for the above Purposes.

Some Dispatches and other Letters which I brought from Boston for you, sent last Night to be deliver'd to your Son:

I have the honor to be, Sir [&c.]

Geo Vandeput

1. *Colden Papers*, VII, 298.

MAJOR ISAAC HAMILTON TO CADWALLADER COLDEN ¹

Sir

New York 26th May 1775

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of a letter which I just now received from the Commander in Chief. I am to request your Honor will be pleased to advise me, what steps are necessary to be taken in our critical situation for the good of his Majesty's service, and the protection of the five companies under my Command here.

Notwithstanding the most tempting baits have been thrown out, we were happy, for a time to find that only four, and those the worst of our men have been warped from their Duty and allegiance, but within these three days we have lost as many more, and I am apprehensive of the whole, unless we are soon removed or reinforced. As matters are thus situated, I am also of opinion Sir, that this Detachment should go on board the *Asia* Man of War; But in this, I am to be directed by your orders & advise.

I have the honor to be Sir &c.

Isaac Hamilton, Major
To the 18th or Royal Irish Regiment of Foot

1. *Colden Papers*, VII, 297.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, May 26, 1775

The congress resuming the consideration of the addition proposed yesterday, *Resolved*, that the following addition be made:

Resolved, that it be recommended to the congress aforesd ² to persevere the more vigorously in preparing for their defence, as it is very uncertain whether the earnest endeavours of the Congress to accomodate the unhappy differences between G. Britain and the colonies by conciliatory Measures will be successful.

Ordered, That the above resolves respecting New York be transmitted by the president in a letter to the prov. Congress of New York, and that it be particularly recommended to sd Congress by the president not to publish the foregoing resolves, but to keep them as secret as the nature of the services require.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 64.

2. The New York Provincial Congress; see Journal of May 25, 1775.

HENRY LAURENS TO WILLIAM MANNING, LONDON ¹

[EXTRACT]

[Charleston] 26 May 1775

p Capt Carling

the General Committee have Resolved to stop exportation of Indian Corn & of Rice, excepting completing the Cargoes of Vessels the Lading of which were actually begun before the 24th. Inst. – the Rumour of a design to Stop *all the Vessels* has Spurred Carling to get away without delay – the Brig *Esther* Capt Hastope with 8000 bushels of Salt on board will return with her Cargo to her Owners in Liverpoole who would not believe we had virtue enough to resist their temptation – I wish they had tried us with 800 Barrels of Gun powder – necessity has no Law – this we will not allow to apply to any other articles whatever & thank God we have lately received while Lord North was asleep Such Supplies of that article as puts us upon a very good footing – more is daily & nightly expected from abroad, besides our hopes from several very promising Specimens of Nitre as well as Gun powder manufactured, which have been produced to the General Committee – of being well Supplied within our Selves –

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–75, SCHS.

27 May

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

In Provincial Congress, Watertown May 27, 1775

Resolved, That Colonel Joseph Henshaw be appointed and directed to repair to Hartford, and inquire whether provision is made by the General Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut for securing and maintaining the fortress of Ticonderoga and the adjacent posts; and if that Assembly has made provision for that purpose, the said Colonel Henshaw proceed directly to Ticonderoga and acquaint Colonel [Benedict] Arnold that it is the order of this Congress that he return, and render accounts of his expences in that expedition, in order that he may be honourably discharged; but if Colonel Henshaw shall find that such provision is not made, and the General Assembly not sitting, that he proceed to Ticonderoga, and inform Colonel Arnold that it is the order of this Congress that he continue there with such a number of forces as said Colonel Henshaw shall judge necessary for the purpose. Nevertheless, if the said Colonel Henshaw shall find the General Assembly sitting, and have not made such provision, that he consult with them touching this important matter, and take their proposals, and immediately make report to the Congress of this Colony.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS TO COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD ¹

Sir

Watertown, May 27, 1775

We have, this day, with pleasure received your letter to the Committee of Safety, of the 19th instant, by Captain [Jonathan] Brown, and return you our hearty thanks for your exertions in the publick cause, and fully agree with you that the interposition of Providence, in this and many other instances, is apparent, for which we have the greatest cause for thankfulness.

We are clearly of opinion that keeping Ticonderoga is a matter of great importance, and we make no doubt the honourable Continental Congress will take that affair immediately under their wise consideration, and give all necessary orders therefor, as we have addressed them most earnestly on the subject.

You inform us that you have had intimations that some persons were determined to apply, in order to injure your character. If any such applications should be made here, you may be assured we shall be so candid as not to suffer any impressions to your disadvantage, until you shall have opportunity to vindicate your conduct.

We enclose a Resolve of this Congress, appointing and directing Colonel Joseph Henshaw to repair to Hartford, and consult with the General Assembly there, upon this important matter, by which you will see the resolution this Congress has taken relative thereto.

We would just add, that the letter you refer to, of the 14th instant, by Colonel [Bernard] Romans, has not come to hand, so that no order can be taken thereon. We are, &c.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 723, from Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

"A CIRCUMSTANTIAL ACCOUNT OF THE LATE BATTLE AT CHELSEA, HOG ISLAND, &c." ¹

On Saturday last [May 27] a party of the American army at Cambridge, to the number of between 2 and 300 men, had orders to drive off the live stock from Hog and Noddle's Island, which lie near Chelsea and Winnesimmet, on the N.E. side of Boston harbour. — From Chelsea to Hog Island, at low water, it is but about knee high, and from that to Noddle's Island about the same — The stock on the former belonged to Mr. Oliver Wendell, at Boston, and Mr. Jonathan Jackson, at Newbury-Port; that on Noddle's island was owned by Mr. — Williams, of Boston, who hires the Island.

About 11 o'clock, A.M. between 20 and 30 men went from Chelsea to Hog Island, and from thence to Noddle's Island, to drive off the stock which was there, but were interrupted by a schooner and a sloop, dispatched from the fleet in Boston harbour, and 40 marines, who had been stationed on the island to protect the live stock — However, they sent off 2 fine English stallions, 2 colts, and 3 cows; killed 15 horses, 2 colts, and 3 cows, burnt a large barn, full of salt hay, and an old farm house: By this time they were fired on from the schooner and sloop, and a large number of marines in boats, sent from the several men of war; upon which they retreated to a ditch on the marsh, and kept themselves undiscovered, till they had an opportunity to fire on the marines, when they shot down two dead, and

wounded two more, one of whom died soon after. They then retreated to Hog Island, where they were joined by the remainder of their party from Chelsea, and drove off all the stock thereon, viz. between 3 and 400 sheep and lambs, some cows, horses, &c.

During this, there were firings between the provincials and the schooner, Sloop, boats, and marines on the other island. – Having cleared Hog Island, the provincials drew up on Chelsea Neck, and sent for a reinforcement of 300 men, and 2 pieces of cannon (four pounders) which arrived about 9 o'clock in the evening; soon after which, General [Israel] Putnam went down and hailed the schooner, and told the people that, if they would submit, they should have good quarters, which the schooner returned with 2 cannon shot; this was immediately answered with 2 cannon from the provincials: – Upon this a very heavy fire ensued from both sides, which lasted until 11 o'clock at night, when the fire from the schooner ceased, the fire from the shore being so hot, that her people were obliged to quit her, and take to the boats, a great number of which had been sent from the ships to their assistance, and also a large reinforcement of marines, sent to Noddle's Island, with 2 twelve pounders.

The schooner² being thus left, drove ashore, where about break of day, the provincials carried some hay under her stern, and set her on fire, the sloop keeping up a small fire upon them; at which time a heavy cannonading was begun, at Noddle's Island hill, with the 12 pounders upon the provincials; also General Putnam kept a heavy fire upon the sloop, which disabled her much, and killed many of her men, so that she was obliged to be tow'd off by the boats, when the firing ceased, excepting a few shot which were exchanged between the party at Chelsea. and the marines on Noddle's Island. – Thus ended this long action, without the loss of one provincial, and only four wounded by the bursting of his own gun, another only lost his little finger. – The loss of the enemy amounted to 30 killed and 50 wounded. – The provincials took out of the schooner 4 double fortified 4 pounders, twelve swivels, chief of her rigging and sails, many clothes, some money, &c. which the sailors and marines left behind, they having quitted in great haste.

1. *New York Journal*, June 8, 1775. See also account in Barker, *Diary*, 50, 51.

2. His Majesty's Armed Schooner *Diana*, commanded by Lieutenant Thomas Graves.

REPORT TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF THE BATTLE ON NODDLE'S ISLAND¹

On the 27th inst. [May] as a Party of the Massachusetts Forces together with a Party of new Hampshire Forces, in all about 600 Men were attempting to bring of[f] the Stock upon hog Island, & about 30 Men upon Noddles Island were doing the same, when about a hundred Regulars landed upon the last mentioned Island, a[nd] pursued our Men, till they had got safely back to hog Island – then the Regulars began to fire very briskly by Platoons upon our Men –

In the mean Time an armed Schooner (mounting four 6 Pounders & 12 Swivels)² with a Number of Barges came up to hog Island to prevent our People Leaving sd Island, But to no Purpose After this she attempted to return back to the Place where she was stationd at Winisimet,³ & five or 6 Minutes would

have secured her. But our Men put in a heavy fire of small Arms upon several Barges which were towing her back, for there was little Wind & flood Tide; & two 3 Pounders coming to Hand that Instant, began to play upon them, & soon obliged the Barges to quit her, & carry of[f] her Crew – after which Fire was set to her, altho the Barges exerted themselves very vigorously to prevent it She was burnt upon the Ways of Winisimet Ferry –

We have not lost a single Life, altho the Ingagement was very warm from the armed Schooner, an armed Sloop that lay within reach of small Arms, from one or two twelve Pounders on Noddles Island, & from the Barges which were all fixed with Swivels – Hog Island was stript of its Stock, & some were taken from Noddles Island by our Forces Two or three Persons only, of our Men, were wounded, but not mortally – How many of the Enemy were killed & wounded we cannot ascertain – Since which we have got into our Hands all in the Schooner that was not destroyed by Fire.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 146, 131.

2. His Majesty's Armed Schooner *Diana*, commanded by Lieutenant Thomas Graves.

3. Winnisimet.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Preston*, CAPTAIN JOHN ROBINSON,
COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

Remarks Boston Harbour

Friday 27

Admiral [Samuel] Graves being Promoted to Vice Admiral of the White, hoisted the white flag at 8 A M. The Squadron Saluted with 13 Guns, Returned 13.

at 2 P M. Saw a Number of Rebels on Noddles Island destroying some hay made the signal for Landing the Marines, at the same time sent the *Diana* Schooner round to cut off their Retreat. She went as far as there was water, but the Marines drove them off the Island. They kept a Constant fire upon the *Diana* from Hog Island and the Main which she returned with Great Spirit. at 6 the *Diana* weighed and got all the boats ahead to tow her. the Rebels kept a Continual fire upon them that they were at last ordered to cast off, and a breeze sprung up which set her in upon the Rebels Shore. Under all those Circumstances they defended her with great Courage till the Tide left her on her beam ends and they could not keep the Deck. They then retreated to the *Somersets* Tender who lay by for that purpose

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Cerberus*, JAMES CHADS, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

Moord in Boston Harbour

Saturday 27

P M disembarkd our party of Marines P Signal & sent our Boats a shore Man'd and arm'd to Assist the Troops at 5 Sent Two of our 3pdrs & a party of Seamen a Shore wh Ammunition &c.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Glasgow*, TYRINGHAM HOWE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Moor'd in Boston Harbour

Saturday 27 The Rebels fired several Musquets at the Ship . . . at 3 P M the Adml made the Signal for all boats mann'd & arm'd to land the Marines on Noddles Island sent the longboat & pinnace with the Marines at 5 saw several houses on fire at the Island at 8 heard severall Vollies of small arms & field pieces fired

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

"REMARKS &CA. ONBOARD THE *Somerset*" ¹

May 1775 Moored in Boston Harbour

Saturday 27 P M the Admiral made the Signal for landing the Marines. landed our Marines on Noddle Island; at 7, two of our marines were brought onboard, being wounded by the Rebels & the *Diana* Schooner & *Britannia*, Tender, were attacked with Great Guns & small Arms by the Rebels

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/906.

MASTER'S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Mercury* ¹

May 1775 [Nantasket Road]

Saturd 27 Came in His Majts Schooner *Diana* Modt Breezes and fair Wr Empd Making Boarding Nettings.
P M heard the Report of Several [guns] towards Pudon [Pudding] Gut Sent the Longboat Mand & Armed to Se[e] the Ocasion of it heard the Report of Volley of Smal Arms & Great guns till a 11 a Clock at ½ past 11 the Longboat Retd by which we found the guns we heard was the Marines and *Diana* beating the Rabbls of[f] Nodels Isld

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1866. Log kept by William McCreight, master.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL GRAVES ¹

(Copy) Boston May 27th 1775.

Sir, I am under the Necessity of acquainting you that I have immediate Occasion for the Transports under Lieutenant Parrys directions; I shall therefore be obliged to you to Order them to be forthwith cleared. Major [William] Shirreff D:Q:M General will give Lieutenant Parry the Necessary Orders and directions for the Service he is wanted.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Extract] [Preston, Boston] 27th [May 1775]

The *Lively* was ordered to Boston, on account of the intended trial of her Captain for disobedience of Orders, and the *Merlin* was sent to relieve her at Marblehead & Captain [William C] Burnaby (of the *Merlin*) received Orders

this day with directions concerning such Vessels as might be brought into Marblehead by the Cruizers on that Station.

And the Admiral now wrote particularly to Captain [Edward] Meadows at Halifax concerning the care of that yard.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 102, 103, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM C. BURNABY, HIS
MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Merlin* ¹

You are hereby required and directed forthwith to proceed in his Majs Sloop under your Command to Marblehead, where you are to use your utmost Endeavours to prevent all kinds of illicit and contraband Trade agreeably to the general Orders and the other Orders and Directions you will receive herewith. Lieut. [Alexander] Graeme commanding his Majs Ship *Lively*, whom you are to relieve, will give you such Information of the Place and Inhabitants &c as are necessary for the better carrying on the Kings Service at Marblehead, where you are to remain until further Order and whereas I have directed Lieutt [George] Dawson in his Majs Schooner *Hope* to lye at Anchor at Salem, or cruise occasionally, the better to prevent the Rebels receiving Supplies of Provisions, Fuel, Salt and Melasses as the said Lieut Dawson shall send or bring to Marblehead, until they have entered at the Custom House, and are cleared again for Boston, where you are to send them round either with hands from the *Merlin* or by the *Hope* Schooner, which shall be found most proper.

Given under my Hand on board his Majs. Ship *Preston* at Boston the 27th May 1775

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix 432, 433, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN EDWARD MEDOWS, H.M.S. *Tartar*,
HALIFAX ¹

Sir,

Preston Boston 27th. May 1775

I have received your Letter May 15 informing me that the *Gaspee* sailed the latter End of April and that the *Diligents* Tender (the *Tatamagouch*) will sail the first opportunity to Lieutt [John] Knight; also acquainting me with the Precautions you have taken for the Security of the King's Yard, which I very much approve, and desire all possible attention may be paid to its Safety. It becomes every day more and more necessary to exert the utmost Vigilance to prevent not only secret but open Attempts to destroy it. The burning of Hay in your Neighbourhood gives me a very unfavourable Idea of the Loyalty of the Inhabitants, and as you cannot but imagine every Stratagem will be tried to destroy the only Naval Magazine we have on the Continent of America, I must repeat my Orders for your taking every Step you think proper for its Security, always having in Remembrance that you are Kept at Halifax for that purpose and must be answerable for its Safety; therefore as things are situated I am sure you do not expect a Compliance with your Request to be absent: Upon a Service of such consequence and at a time like this, every Soul must attend strictly to their Duty. If the *Tartar* is not provided with the allowed Number of Boats I have no Objection

to her being furnished from the Yard, but my regard to the whole will not admit of a partial Indulgence to the detriment of the Service in General. The Ships are all in want of Boats and particularly Cutters, and the exactest distribution must be observed.

I have directed the Builder to make any Repairs or Alterations you desire in the Twelve Oared Cutter.

I am &c

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix 433–435, MassHS Transcript.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1775

Providence, May 27.

Saturday Night last[May 20] four armed Vessels, well manned, were sent from Boston to an Island near Weymouth, in order to take on board a Quantity of Hay that had been procured for the Use of the ministerial Army – They were discovered early on Sunday Morning, when a Number of the Inhabitants put off for the Island in a Gondola, who drove the Enemy on board their Vessels, burnt a large Quantity of Hay, and brought off a Number of Cattle which they had ty'd, – Our People fired on them briskly, and a Person since from Boston says, that three Men were carried in mortally wounded; they returned the Fire with Swivels and small Arms, but did no Execution, and got only one Ton of Hay, which they had taken in before they were opposed. – The Wind and Tide favoured the Enemy greatly, otherwise it is thought none of them would have escaped. – The Firing and burning of the Hay occasioned an Alarm through the Country, and vast Bodies of Provincials were on their March towards Weymouth.

We hear that Capt. Webster, in a Sloop from New-York, with Provisions, was seized a few Days since by a Man of War's Tender, near Newport.¹

1. See *Newport Mercury*, May 29, 1775.

“REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*”¹

May 1775

Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour

Saturday 27 A M spoke the Ship *Peggy*, Wm Barron Mastr from Maryland with Flour

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

ABRAHAM LOTT, ROYAL NAVY VICTUALLING AGENT, TO THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

Mr. Lott having received an order from the purser of His Majesty's ship *Asia* to supply the said ship with sundry provisions, takes the liberty herewith to hand the same, and to request the favour that the Honourable Congress will be pleased to signify their opinion whether the order shall be complied with, and whether he shall be at liberty to supply the said ship with such other provisions as she may from time to time have occasion for, for her own use, during her stay in this Colony. City of New York, May 27th, 1775

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, II, 30.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Saturnii, 9 ho., A.M., May 27, 1775.

A letter from Abraham Lott, Esqr., contractor for supplying his Majesty's Ships in this port, to this Congress (covering an order of this day from the purser of the ship *Asia* for provisions,) and requesting the favour that this Congress will be pleased to signify their opinion, whether the order shall be complied with and, also whether he shall be at liberty to supply the said ship with such other provisions as she may, from time to time, have occasion for, *for her own use*, during her stay in this Colony was read.

Ordered, That Abraham Lott, Esqr., be at liberty to comply with the order for provisions now laid before the Congress, and the Congress declare that Mr. Lott shall be at liberty to furnish such other provisions as above mentioned, to the said Ship *Asia*, *for her own use*, while in this port, he laying before the Congress (or the General Committee of New-York if this board should not be sitting,) a list of the Supplies so made from time to time.

To this amendments were proposed, to wit: to add the word (*first*) between the word *he* and the word *laying*, and to obliterate the words so made.

And debates arising thereon, and the question put thereon, it was carried against the amendment.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 15.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, May 27, 1775

Upon motion, *Agreed*, That Mr. [George] Washington, Mr. [Philip] Schuyler, Mr. [Thomas] Mifflin, Mr. [Silas] Deane, Mr. [Lewis] Morris and Mr. S[amuel] Adams, be a committee, to consider of ways and means to supply these colonies with Ammunition and military stores and to report immediately.

Upon motion, The Memorial of Robert Murray and John Murray, desiring to be restored to their former situation with respect to their commercial privileges, was taken into consideration, and after some time spent thereon,

Resolved, That where any person hath been or shall be adjudged by a committee, to have violated the continental association, and such offender shall satisfy the convention of the Colony, where the offence was or shall be committed, or the committee of the parish of St. John's, in the Colony of Georgia,² if the offence be committed there, of his contrition for his offence, and sincere resolution to conform to the Association for the future, the sd convention, or committee of the parish of St. John's aforesd, may settle the terms upon which he may be restored to the favour and forgiveness of the public, and that the terms be published.

Ordered, That this be made public.³

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 67, 68.

2. Georgia, as a Colony was not represented in Congress until September, 1775. Dr. Lyman Hall, representing the parish of St. John's, had been seated without vote on May 13.

3. Printed in the *Pennsylvania Packet* May 29.

28 May (Sunday)**"REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER" ¹**

May 1775 at 2 P M sailed hence His Majestys Ship *Canceaux*, at 7 Came in Sunday 28th the *Canceaux*, detained 2 Sloops loaded with provisions.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF MASSACHUSETTS TO COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD ¹

Cambridge, May 28, 1775

The expedition to Ticonderoga, &c. requiring secrecy, the Congress of this Colony was not acquainted with the orders you received from this Committee. It gives us great pleasure to be informed by the express, Captain [Jonathan] Brown, that the success you have met with is answerable to your spirit in the undertaking. We have now to acquaint you that the Congress have taken up this matter, and given the necessary directions respecting these acquisitions. It is, then, Sir, become your duty, and is our requirement, that you conform yourself to such advice and orders as you shall from time to time receive from that body. We are, &c.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 726, 727. from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE AMERICAN CAMP AT CAMBRIDGE" ¹

Camp at Cambridge, May 28, 1775.

Yesterday a Party from the United American Army was ordered to take the Cattle, Hay, &c. from Noddle's and Hog Islands. While executing their Orders, they were attacked by a Number of the King's Troops from Boston, in an armed Schooner,² a Sloop, and 8 or 10 Boats belonging to the Men of War: A brisk Fire began about Four o'Clock, P.M. and continued most of the Night, then ceased a little, and at Dawn of Day, was renewed, by which time Capt. [Thomas Waite] Foster, with two Field Pieces from this Camp, joined our Troops, when a heavy Fire from the Shore on the armed Vessels put them into great Distress. The Schooner's Decks were cleared by our Field Pieces, and she drifted on the Ferry-Way at Winesimet, where our People set Fire to her, by means of some Hay put into the Cabbin Windows, and she was soon blown up, and destroyed. Sixteen Four-Pounders, and a number of Swivels were taken out of her by our People. The Sloop was disabled, and obliged to be towed off by the Men of War's Boats; the Remains of them are returned to their den. Our People had none killed, three wounded, but none of them dangerously.

1. *Connecticut Gazette*, June 3, 1775.

2. His Majesty's Armed Schooner *Diana*.

GENERAL ORDERS OF GENERAL ARTEMUS WARD ¹

[Camp at Cambridge, May 28, 1775] ²

The General Much Approves of the Vigilance & Courage of the Officers and Soldiers under the Command of Col. [Ephraim] Doolittle in the late Action at

26	D ^o	D ^o W ^o P ^o M. arrived here his Majesty's Ship Cerberus with the Generals. She Saluted the Flag with 13 guns. Returned 11. Sailed hence two Transports.
27	D ^o	Mod ^t and fair. Admiral Howe being promoted to Vice Admiral of the White. Hoisted the white flag at 8 AM. The Squadron Saluted with 13 guns. Returned 13.
28	Calm	D ^o W ^o Variouslly Employed. Painters on board at 2 P ^o M. Saw a Number of Rebels on Noddies Island destroying some hay made the signal for Landing the Marines, at the same time sent the Diana Schooner round to cut off their Retreat. She went as far as there was water, but the Marines drove them off the Island. They kept a constant fire upon the Diana from Flag Island and the Main which she returned with great Spirit. at 6 the Diana weighed and got all the boats a head to tow her. the Rebels kept a continual fire upon them that they were at last ordered to cast off. and a breeze sprung up which set her in upon the Rebels shore. Under all those Circumstances they defended her with great Courage till the Tide left her on her beam ends and they could not keep the Deck. They then retreated to the Somerset Tender who lay by for that purpose at 3 AM the Tide leaving her quite dry the Rebels Ventured on board. Shattered her and set her on fire. The Marines took post upon the Island for that night. and when all was over were reinforced with 200 Men from the Garrison. The Tender after seeing no Possibility of saving the Diana slipped and came up the Harbour. at 12 The Cerberus' Quarter Deck guns were sent to the Island. and at 6 two field Pieces from the Shore. They Fired several times at the Rebels on the Continent.

Fresh ADVICES from the *AMERICAN* ARMY.

Camp at Cambridge, May 28, 1775.

YESTERDAY a Party from the United American Army was ordered to take the Cattle, Hay, &c. from Noddle's and Hog Islands. While executing their Orders, they were attacked by a Number of the King's Troops from Boston, in an armed Schooner, a Sloop, and 8 or 10 Boats belonging to the Men of War: A brisk Fire began about Four o'Clock, P. M. and continued most of the Night, then ceased a little, and at Dawn of Day was renewed, by which Time Capt. Foster, with two Field Pieces from this Camp, joined our Troops, when a heavy Fire from the Shore on the armed Vessels put them into great Distress. The Schooner's Decks were cleared, and she drifted on the Ferry-Way at Winesimmet, where our People sat Fire to her, and she was soon blown up, and destroyed. Sixteen Four-Pounders, and six Swivels, were taken out of her by our People. The Sloop was disabled, and obliged to be towed off by the Men of War's Boats; the Remains of them are returned to their Den. Our People had none killed, three wounded, but none of them dangerously. The Number of killed and wounded of the Enemy not known.

Chelsea, & has ordered 2 Barrils of Rum to be dealt out to them in equal portions for their Service.

1. *The Magazine of History with Notes & Queries* (New York, 1909), X, 110.

2. The General Order is undated, but the logical date is the day after the engagement it refers to.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Preston*, CAPTAIN JOHN ROBINSON,
COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Remarks Boston Harbour

Sunday 28 at 3 A M the Tide leaving her [the *Diana*] quite dry the Rebels Ventured on board, Plundered her and set her on fire. The Marines took poste upon the Island for that night, and when all was over were reinforced with 200 Men from the Garison. The Tender after seeing no Possability of saving the *Diana* slip'd and came up the Harbour.

at 12 The *Cerberus*' Quarter Deck Guns were sent to the Island. and at 6 two field Pieces from the Shore. they Fired several times at the Rebels on the Continent

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

"REMARKS &CA ONBOARD THE *Somerset*" ¹

May 1775 Moored in Boston Harbour

Sunday 28 A.M. Geo: Williams, Wm. Crocker Seamen, were brought onboard from the *Britannia*, the former Dead, the latter mortally wounded, so that he Died soon after. Do the *Diana* Schooner was driven onshore by the Tide, it being calm; soon after the Crew was obliged to take to the Boats, and she was set on fire soon after by the Rebels: The Revd Mr. Troutbeck performed divine Service on board, and the two Seamen were buried.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/906.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Cerberus*, JAMES CHADS, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Moor'd in Boston Harbour

Sunday 28 AM Got Do [ammunition] on bd Empd Embarking the Marines; Fired at the rebles assembled and burning the Houses & Barns of Hay on Noddles Island

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Glasgow*, TYRINGHAM HOWE, COMMANDING ¹

1775 May Moor'd in Boston Harbour

Sunday 28 at 3 A M saw houses on fire at the So. End of Bostn at 6 A M the longboat & pinnace return'd with one Man wounded brought the News the *Diana* armed Schoner was burnt by the Rebels
Modr & Clear Wr P M sent part of the powder on Shore to Day Sailmakers empd. as before All Hands at Quarters

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Preston, Boston] May 28th [1775]

About this time information being brought that the Rebels had small armed Vessels full of men along shore, and that a Bermudian Sloop was actually cruising in Hell Gates to intercept our small Vessels carrying Dispatches, notice of it was immediately given to all the Captains of the Squadron.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 103, MassHS Transcript.

29 MayMEMORIAL OF PORTSMOUTH MERCHANTS TO JOHN WENTWORTH, GOVERNOR
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE ¹

The Memorial of us the Subscribers, Merchants, Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Portsmo *Humbly sheweth* –

That two vessels laden with corn, Pork, Flower & other Provisions contracted for by some Merchants of this Town for the Supply of the Inhabitants, of which they are in great want, are detained by the *Scarborough* at the mouth of our Harbour – and we are informed are to be sent to Boston the first wind, – your Memorialists are very apprehensive of the most alarming consequences from a measure of this kind taking place at this Critical Juncture and beg your Excellency & Honours would Interfere in such a manner as your wisdom shall direct for the liberating said vessels & Cargoes.

Portsmouth May 29th 1775.

H. Wentworth	George Hart	Alex ^r Morison
Tho ^s Hart	Supply Clap	Geo. Wentworth
Sam ^l Cutts	Henry Sherburne	R. Champney
A. R. Cutter	Wm. Knight	Sam ^l Penhallow
J. Driscoll	Josh. Wentworth	Geo. Gaines
Jacob Treadwell	Will ^m Pearny	John Penhallow
Rich. Hart	Wm. Whipple	Elisha Hill
Pierce Long	Jacob Sheaf, jun.	Neal McIntyer
Sam ^l Sherburne		

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 376.

MINUTES OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL ¹

At a Council held at Portsmouth the 29th Day of May 1775.

Mr Jac. Treadwell and Mr Jacob Sheaffe Junr present a Memorial from themselves & others Merchts Freeholders & other Inhabitants of this Town setting forth that two Vessels laden with Provisions contracted for by some Merchts for the Supply of the Inhabitants were detained by His Majesty's Ship *Scarborough* to be sent to Boston &ct & praying that his Excy & Honrs would interfere to liberate said Vessels & Cargoes – The Memorialists declare themselves very apprehensive of the most alarming Consequences from this Measure that in the present immediate Want of Provisions in this & the neighbouring Towns the immediate

assembling of large Bodies of People is to be apprehended and fatal Consequences dreaded.

The Council having fully considered and deliberated upon the Matter are of opinion, That the Poor of this and the neighbouring Towns are in the greatest want of Corn and other Provisions – and it appearing that the Cargoes of said Vessels have been contracted for for their relief and sustenance and also for the supply of the Inhabitants The Council are convinced there is the greatest Reason on these Accounts to apprehend the most violent outrages and tumults of the People will immediately follow this Detention of their Provisions the Consequences of which will be most probably very fatal to His Majesty's Service, by bringing into the most imminent Danger the Lives and Properties of His Servants which ought by all means to be prevented if possible.

The Council therefore think it their Duty to advise Your Excellency will be pleased to acquaint Capt. [Andrew] Barkley of these circumstances, not doubting but he will perceive that No general Orders can be intended to authorize him to cut off the Provisions actually procured for the necessary Sustenance of the Poor and Inhabitants of this Town, or impower him to interrupt the peaceable Subjects of His Majesty in this Province in pursuing their lawful Commerce.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, XVIII, 664.

HUNKING WENTWORTH, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF PORTSMOUTH TO THE
NEWBURYPORT COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE ¹

Gentlemen

Portsmouth 29th May 1775

We have two Provision Vessels seiz'd at the mouth of our harbour the Last night by the *Scarborough*, and upon application to Capt. [Andrew] Barclay for their release, find he has positive Orders from the Admiral to take Possession of all Vessels Laden with Provisions, Salt or Mollasses, and send them to Boston; and says further, those Orders are Circular through the Continent –

We give this earliest intelligence for your Government and also inform you that the *Canceaux*, a small Ship of Six or eight Guns, Sails the first wind, to convoy the two Vessels already seized, to Boston, and are sorry to find ourselves unable to prevent it, as we have our harbour blocked up, by a 20 Gun Ship, and have no Vessel of force able to Retake them. One Reason of our mentioning this Circumstance, and sending an Express this night with it is, because we have just heard that you have an armed Vessel in your Port,

We have ordered two small Vessels to cruize of[f] and on, and if possible give this Intelligence to all Vessels bound to this or any other Port, and trust you will do the same – By Order of the Comtee [&c.]

H Wentworth. Chairman

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 273.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

Boston 29th May 1775

The destination of some of the Regiments expected from Ireland being Altered; four of which having been first Ordered to New York; ² I am in Conse-

quence of this Alteration, and the Orders received thereupon from His Majesty's Secretary of State; to make Application to you, that one of His Majesty's Ships under your Command may cruize in a proper place for these Transports, and to deliver such orders on board the Several Ships as shall be given, that the Troops may be Apprized of the Situation of Affairs in this Country, and be upon their guard on their Arrival. The Orders shall be ready to be delivered to such Officer as you shall think proper to Appoint for this service.

I am with Regard & Esteem Sir—&

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. *Ibid*, Dartmouth to Gage, April 15, 1775.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir Boston 29 May 1775. 5 o'Clock P M.

I have the Honor of your Excellency's Letter of this day.

Capt [John] Macartney, of His Maj's Ship *Mercury*, is ready to Sail, and to execute whatever Orders Your Excellency may think proper for Me to give him for His Maj's Service.² I am Sir with great respect and regard [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. Gage's orders to Macartney were to intercept the transports and direct them to go to Boston.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[*Preston Boston*] 29th [May 1775]

The Rebels burned the only Dwelling house on Noddles Island, which being the property of a notorious Rebel then in Arms, was not much regarded. But it appearing that they were inclined to burn and destroy every thing likely to be useful to the Army and Navy, and to do them all the Mischief in their power, the Admiral thought it proper to order the *Somerset* to drop further down the Harbour and anchor where she could come to sail at any time of Tide.

The Ship *Champion* arrived laden with Wheat and Flour, having been manned and sent for Boston by Captain [John] Linzee of the *Falcon*.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 103, MassHS Transcript.

WILLIAM SHIRREFF, DEPUTY QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, BRITISH ARMY, TO
THOMAS WILLIAMS, STOREKEEPER OF ORDNANCE AT ANNAPOLIS ROYAL ¹

Dear Sir Boston 29th May 1775

I have received your obliging favor, and return you many thanks for the trouble you have taken, and readiness you have shewn in giving your Assistance so Necessary at present for the good of the service. The Hay will be most Acceptable and I am in hopes Captain Prince's Vessel has taken a part on Board As he promised me he should return immediately, and I will send you another one, as soon as possible I shall want three or four Thousand Tons of Hay and I wish with all my heart poor Annapolis [Royal] could furnish it — but all it can furnish I will take, and if they are Industrious they may get a great deal of

Money for their Vegetables Poultry Butter Eggs &c. – And may come directly into this Port without any expence whatever and will be sure to find every encouragement and Assistance that can be given them. On the Other hand if they give themselves Airs, and follow the Cursed example of these Mad Men they will Consider how easily Governmt can Chastise them, and they may rely upon it they will, and that immediately too – but I hope They will Consider Their Interests better and make all the Money they can. They never will have a fairer opportunity. I have wrote to Messrs Day & Scott at Halifax respecting Forage, and have desired them to Consult with you about the Quantity that may be procured at Annapolis, as they are to furnish the Remainder from Windsor & that Neighbourhood.

Procure Hay screws at any rate, and the whole should be carried to a particular place most convenient for that purpose as Also for Shiping of it – You have not Advised me in what manner I am to make your remittances for Expenses to be incurred in the above Service, therefore shall expect it pr Next. We are in the same Situation As when wrote you last – except the addition of twelve hundred Troops lately arrived from England, The Regiment of Horse and Eight Other Regts are hourly expected – when I hope you will hear better Accounts from us. I am hurried to Death therefore have only time to add my Compts to all friends & to wish you every happiness being truly Dear Sir [&c.]

Will^m Shirreff

P.S. If you can possibly add to the Quantity of Old Hay pray do and don't mind the Expense – W. S.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 292.

NATHANIEL FREEMAN TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Honble Gentlemen in consequence of Complaint made to the Committee of correspondence of the Town of Sandwich by Messrs Simeon Wing and Jesse Barlow we have thought it advisable to represent to your Honours the circumstances of their Vessels being taken by Capt [John] Linsey of the *Falcon* & retaken by a Schooner from Dartmouth under command of Capt [Daniel] Egery, and to beg some advice and order of the Congress may be passed concerning it.

Mr. Wings Vessel commanded by his Son Thomas Wing has been ply'd as a wood Boat to carry wood to Nantucket from Sandwich for some years past and it hath been the usual practice for them to settle with the Custom House once a year the Officer of whom always gave them their Choice of paying twelve pence pr tripp on the whole at the years end and this hath been we find up[on] examining the Common practice with other vessels who have followed the same business at the same place – upon Capt Wings returning from Nantucket through the Vineyard Sound His Sloop was taken by a Barge from sd Capt Lindsey an indian Fellow on board of Wing informd Capt Lindsey of sd Barlows Vessel which had run in Cargo lately from the West Indies and was laden with Provisions in Buzzards Bay Bound thither again as he said Capt Lindsey employed Capt wings vessel putting 14 men on board to proceed up the Bay and take sd Barlows vessel,

which they carried off The master of this latter Vessel was taken with Wing being then on Board as a passenger, so that both vessels with all the Crew passengers &c were taken & proceeding to the Cove to Capt Lindsey – Mr Barlow made application to some people at Dartmouth who went with a Sloop one half of which Barlow ventured & took both Vessels and men with their arms &c and carried them into Dartmouth Messrs Wing & Barlow applyd to the Dartmouth People who took the vessels for them again the People offer'd them their vessels upon Wing paying them Eight Dollars and Barlows paying 10 Dollars, with which they complyd & Wing paid the money after which the Dartmouth people detained the Vessels till the Orders of Congress could be known, and now refuse to deliver up sd Vessels without Wing & Barlows paying 45 Dollars and giving Bond of a very extraordinary nature to indemnify sd Dartmouth People &c these are a true state of facts as nearly as we after examination of sd Wing & Barlow can ascertain and the sd Wing & Barlow thinking they ought to have their Vessels again without further difficulty desire the Committee of Correspondence of this town to lay the matter before you and pray your Orders hereon to which they profess their readiness to submit to & acquiesce in. We are your Honours [&c] the Committee of Sandwich.

Signed Nath^l Freeman p^r Order

Sandwich May 29, 1775

[Endorsed] In Congress Watertown, June 2d 1775

The Committee appointed to the circumstances from the Committee of Correspondence of the town of Sandwich into Consideration have Considered the same and report as follows viz

That the people of the town of Dartmouth mentioned in the remonstrance who withhold sd vessels from the sd Wing & Barlow be notified to appear the 2d Tuesday of the next meeting of the House of representatives in Watertown to give their reasons why they withhold the same, and that they be served with a Copy of this remonstrance and that Wing & Barlow be notified to Attend at the same time & place which is humbly Submitted

Ezra Richmond p^r order

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 28, 29.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, MAY 29, 1775

Newport, May 29.

Last Wednesday night [May 24] the sloop *Collector*, Capt. Nicholas Webster, sailed from this port for Boston, with a quantity of salt provisions, for the use of the standing army there; & a number of sheep; but for whose use these were is as yet uncertain. It is reported, that said sloop & salt provisions were taken into the custody of one of the ships of war here, and sent by her to Boston; but how that matter is, by whom those sheep were shipped, and for whose use, *all-discovering* TIME may unfold. – The Committee of Inspection, we hear, have taken the affair of the sheep into their consideration.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Providence, dated May 25.

It is strongly suspected here, that the provisions on board Webster were really purchased for the King's service, and that the Capture was a SHAM. If this be not the truth of the case, pray set it in a true light, for the report spreads fast; and as surely as it is believed that the ENEMY is supplied from Newport, will every supply for that town be stopped from every colony upon the continent.

Last Saturday [May 20] put in here, the ship *Peggy*, Capt. William Baron, in 28 days from Baltimore, in Maryland: This vessel was bound to Cork, with a load of flour and Indian corn, 'tis said, but having contrary winds, was likely to fall short of wood & water. She is now in custody of the men of war in this harbour, and we hear is to be sent to Boston.

Another ship, said to be from Virginia, loaded with wheat, &c. was lately taken, near Nantucket, by the *Falcon* sloop of war, and sent to Boston; this ship was said to be bound to Europe.¹

That two ships, bound from Virginia and Maryland to Europe, should, at this juncture, fall in with Nantucket and Rhode-Island, is a matter of some speculation.

1. The ship *Champion*; see Graves's Conduct, MassHS Transcript.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT, TO THE MASSACHUSETTS
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen

Hartford 29th May 1775 –

I am desired to inclose you a Copy of a Letter from the Congress of New York to this Assembly dated 25th instant which you will receive herewith p Mr [John] Brown who is on his Return from the Continental Congress – The Contents of the abovementioned Letter were immediately taken into Consideration of this Assembly – in Consequence whereof they came into the followg Resolutions – That one thousand Men (including 400 which We had before ordered) under Command of Colo [Benjamin] Hinman should March as soon as possible to Tyconderoga & Crown Point for the Support & Defence of those Fortresses – That they continue there untill they are relieved by the Province of N York, or are otherwise ordered by this Assembly – That Colo Hinman take the Command of our Troops on those Stations – That the Troops be furnished with One Pound of Powder & three pounds of Bullets to each Soldier – That Colo Hinman be ordered to keep up the strictist Vigilance to prevent any hostile Incursions from being made into the Settlements of the Province of Quebec – and That the Provincial Congresses of N York & Massachusetts Bay be advised of these Measures, & the N York Congress be requested to forward the necessary Supplies for said Troops, & such other Supplies of Amunition as they shall judge necessary –

Advice of these Resolutions is already sent forward to N York p Mr Colton your Express to Philadelphia –

It is Matter of Doubt with us, whether the abovementioned Detachment of Troops ordered by this Colony will be sufficient for the important Purposes for which they are Destined – but We recollect that Colo [Benedict] Arnold is now

on the Spot with a Commission (as We understand) to raise a Regiment in the Pay of your Province. We are not informed how far he has proceeded in that Design – if he meets with Success, We flatter ourselves that his Regiment joined with the Troops we have sent will be able to maintain their Ground & keep Possession of those Important Posts. –

We take the Liberty to recommend to your Consideration the furnishg such additional Supply of Powder from you as you shall think necessary to be sent forward for the Support of those northern Ports – I am very sorry to have it to say that We are credibly informed there is not 500 lb of Powder in the City of N York – but at the same Time are advised that Means are taking to supply them with that very important Article –

I am with great Truth & Regard Gentlemen [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM PACKWOOD'S RECEIPT TO WILLIAM THOMPSON ¹

New London May 29th 1775

Received the Within Contents frm Wm Thompson to be Laid out in powder
William Packwood

[Endorsed] Within is a List of the Money ² dld Mr Nathl Shaw Junr

P W^m Thompson

1. Shaw Collection, Packet No. 3, YUL. See Thompson to Shaw, May 18, 1775.

2. The list totalled £1440.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen,

Crown-Point 29th May 1775

Your resolution of the 18th. Inst & recommendation of Measures to the City's of New-York and Albany, in Consequence of the taking Possession of Ticonderoga &c. has this moment been deliverd me, as Commanding Officer here, the Purport of which Induces me to believe, the Committee of Safety of the Massachusetts Bay, have not Informed you of my Appointment, or Instructions from them which I have taken the Liberty to inclose, & in Consequence arrived in the Neighbourhood of Ticonderoga the 9th. Inst where I met One Colo [Ethan] Allen with about 500 Men, rais'd at the Instance of some Gentlemen from Connecticut, who agreed we should take a joint Command of the Troops, the next morning at 4 oClock we surpriz'd the Garrison & took them prisoners, the particulars of which you have doubtless heard – Some dispute arising between Colo Allen & myself, prevented my Carrying my Orders into Execution untill the 16th. when being Joined by 50 Men of my own Regt & a small Schooner taken at Skeensborough which I immediately Armed, & Sailed for St Johns in quest of the Sloop, the 17th being becalmed within ten leagues of St Johns I mann'd out two small Batteaus with 35 men & after rowing all night, at 6 oClock next morning, landed at St Johns & took a Sergt and his party of 12 men Prisoners, the Kings Sloop of 70 Tons mounted with two Brass Six pounders, & seven men, and in two hours after left St Johns, having previously taken on board such Stores &c. as were valuable.

Providence remarkably smiled on us, as a few hours Delay would have ruined our Design, a party of 120 men with six pieces Cannon for the Sloop, being on their March from Montreal at only 20 miles distance, add to this a party of 40 men on their march from Chamble, 12 miles Distance, – Colo Allen arrived at St Johns the same Evening with 100, men & being Attacked the next morning by the Regulars, retreated, & left three men behind (two of wch are since arrived) – I have Armed the Sloop with Six Carriage and two Swivel Guns, the Schooner with four Carriage, & Eight Swivels, I have sent to Lake George, One Brass Twelve Pounder, Six large Brass & Iron Mortars & Howitz, & am making all possible preparation, for transporting all the Cannon here, and as many as can be spared at Ticonderoga, to Fort George – I must beg leave to observe Gentlemen, that the report of Ticonderoga's being abandoned, has thrown the Inhabitants here into the greatest Consternation, there is about five hundred families to the Northward of Ticonderoga, who if it is evacuated will be left at the mercy of the Kings Troops & Indians, & who have part of them joined the Army, & cannot now remain neuter, to whom a remove would be intire Ruin, as they have large Families, & no Dependance, but a promising Crop on the Ground. I need not add to this Gentlemen, that Ticonderoga is the Key of this extensive Country, & if abandon'd leaves a very extensive Frontier Open to the Ravages of the Enemy, & to Continual Alarms, which will probably cost more than the Expençe of repairing and Garrisoning it. –

I esteem'd it my duty as a Servant of the public's to give you the foregoing hints & hope the Exigence of the times will be a sufficient Apology for the liberty I have taken – I have the Honour to be very respectfully Gentn [&c.]

Benedict Arnold Colo & Commr of Ticona &c.

1. President's Letter Book, III, LC. This letter was probably included in the letters read in Congress on Saturday, June 10, 1775, the journal entry stating, "Several letters from Massachusetts Bay, Ticonderoga, Crown Point, &c. were laid before Congress, and read." Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 84, 85.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF
MASSACHUSETTS ¹

Gentlemen

Crown Point, May 29, 1775

I was equally surprised and alarmed this day on receiving advice, via Albany, that the Continental Congress has recommended the removing all the cannon, stores, &c. at Ticonderoga to Fort George, and evacuating Ticonderoga entirely which being the only key of this Country, leaves our very extensive Frontiers open to the ravages of the Enemy, and if put into execution, will be the entire ruin of five hundred Families to the northward of Ticonderoga. I have wrote the Congress, and given My Sentiments very freely, with your Instructions to me, as I fancy they have had no Intelligence of my appointment and orders.

Colonel [Ethan] Allen has entirely given up the Command. I have one hundred and fifty men here, and expect in two or three weeks to have my Regiment complete, and believe they will be joined by a thousand men from Connecticut and New York. I have sent to Lake George six large brass and iron mortars and

howitzers, one brass and three iron 12-Pounders, and shall pursue your orders with all the dispatch in my power. I am, Gentlemen, [&c.]

Benedict Arnold

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

COLONEL ETHAN ALLEN TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Worthy Gentn

Crown Point 29th May 1775

An Abstract of the minutes of Council from the Continental Congress, signed Pr Mr Charles Thomson Secretary has just come to hand and tho' it approves of the taking the Fortresses on Lake Champlain and the Artillery &c. I am nevertheless much surprised that your Honours should recommend it to us to remove the Artillery to the South End of Lake George and there to make a stand, the Consequence of which must ruin the Frontier settlements, which are Extended at least one hundred miles to the Northward from that place, probably your Honours were not informed of those settlements wch Consist of several thousand families who are seated on that Tract of Country Called the New Hampshire Grants. the Misfortune and real Injury to those Inhabitants by making the South End of Lake George the Northermost front of Protection will more fully appear from the following Consideration. Namely it was at the special request and solicitation of the Governments of the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay, & Connecticut, that those very Inhabitants put their Life into the hand of them Governments and made those valuable Acquisitions for the Colonies by doing it they have Incens'd Governor [Guy] Carlton and all the Ministerial Party in Canada against them, and provided they should after all their good Service in behalf of their Country, be neglected and left expos'd they will be of all men the most Consumately miserable. The South Promontary of Lake Champlain and Lake George as to a Southern Direction are near the same and if we should give up the Sov'reignty of Lake Champlain we may as well give up the whole, if the Kings Troops should be again in Possession of Ticonderoga and Crown Point, and Command the Lake, the Indians and Canadians will be much more Inclined to Join with them, and make Incursions into the Heart of our Country, but as the Colonies are now in the possession and Actual Command of the Lake having taken the Armed Sloop from George the Third which was Cruising in the Lake, and also Seiz'd a Schooner belonging to Major Skeene at South-Bay and have armed and mann'd them both for the protection of our Country and the Constitution and Civil Priviledges and Liberties thereof. By a Council of War held on board the Sloop the 27th Inst it was agreed to advance to Point au fore with the Sloop and Schooner and a number of Armed Boats well mann'd, and there make a Stand, and act on the defensive, and by all means Command the Lake, and defend the frontiers, and wait for the special directions of the Honble Continental Congress, and govern ourselves accordingly, we are now almost ready to sail to that station which is about six miles this side, Latitude forty-five Degrees North, a small force with the Armed Vessells will at present Command the Lake and Secure the frontiers, the Canadians (all Except the Nobless) and also the Indians appear at present to be very friendly to us, and it is my humble opinion that the more vigorous the Colonies

push the war against the Kings Troops in Canada, the more friends we shall find in that Country. Provided I had but five hundred men with me at St John's when we took the Kings Sloop, I would have advanced to montreal. Nothing strengthens our friends in Canada equal to our Prosperity in taking the Sovereignty of Lake Champlain, and should the Colonies forthwith send an Army of two or three thousand Men and Attack Montreal, we should have but little to fear from the Canadians or Indians and would easily make a Conquest of that Place and set up the Standard of American Liberty in the Extensive Province of Quebec whose limits was Enlarg'd purely to subvert the Liberties of America, striking such a Blow would intimidate the Tory party in Canada, the same as the Commencement of the war at Boston intimidated the Tories in the Colonies, they are a set of Gentlemen that will not be Converted by Reason but are easily wrought upon by fear, Advancing an Army into Canada will be agreeable to our friends, and it is bad policy to fear the Resentment of an Enemy, if we lie easy & in a Supine State, and Governor Carlton exerts himself against us vigorously, as we know he will, and who by a Legal Constitution can oblige our Friends to assist him he will by slow Degrees Discourage our friends and Encourage our Enemies and form those that are at present Indifferent, into Combination against us, therefore the possible way to Circumvent him and the Scheme of the ministry is to Nervously push an Army into Canada, but if the Wisdom of the Continent in Congress should view the propos'd Invasion of the Kings Troops in Canada as premature or Impolitick nevertheless I Humbly Conceive when your Honours come to the Knowledge of the before mention'd facts, You will at least Establish some advantageous Situation towards the Northerly part of Lake Champlain as a Frontier, instead of the South Promontory of Lake George, there are many advantages in forming the frontier, near the Country of the Enemy, as first, it will be in our power to ravage and make Inroads into the Heart of the Enemies Country, the same as they might easily do, were they in Possession and Command of Lake Champlain, this Advantage will be of the utmost Consequence, be it in the hands of which Party it will, tho' it is now in our hands, to give it up to them would be fatal, the Interest of the Colonies but more particularly to those who were instrumental in the Atchievement of the supremacy of that Lake but secondly, Commanding the Northerly part of the Lake, puts it in our power to work our Policy with the Canadians & Indians, we have made Considerable proficiency this way already, sundry Indians have been to visit us, and have returned to their Tribes to use their Influence in our favr, we have sent Capt Abraham Nimham a Stockbridge Indian as our Ambassador of Peace to the several Tribes of Indians in Canada, he was accompanied by Mr Winthrop Hoit, who has been a Prisoner with the Indians and Understands their Tongue, I do not imagine provided we Command Lake Champlain there will be any need of a War with the Canadians or Indians, pray pardon me on Account of my Impertinency or Inaccuracy in this Composition as it is but a rough Draught wrote in great Haste from

Your Honours every faithful [&c.]

Ethan Allen

New York Gazette, MONDAY, MAY 29, 1775

New York, May 29.

Friday Morning last [May 26] his Majesty's Ship the *Asia*, George Vandepot, Esq; arrived here from Boston, after a passage of 16 Days.

When this Ship left Boston no Transports nor Troops had then arrived either from England or Ireland; but two Days after Capt. Vandepot came out, he fell in with 6 Transports from England, with Troops &c. on board.

Saturday Morning last [May 27] an express arrived from Ticonderoga, in eight days. By him we learn, that Major [Benedict] Arnold dispatched Mr. [Eleazer] Oswald [Oswald], and 35 Men, in a schooner and some Battoes, to take Possession of a Sloop that lay at St. John's; at the same Time Capt. Ethan Allan set out with 80 men to facilitate the Undertaking, and stopped on the Way for a Reinforcement of 20 more; but Mr. Oswald pursued his Scheme, and took Possession of the Vessel that lay at St. John's, with all the Battoes, and made 14 soldiers, and 6 Seamen Prisoners of War, before Capt. Allan came up; but the latter contrary to Advice proceeded to St. John's, where he unluckily fell in with 250 Regulars, that were dispatched to the Succour of Crown-Point and Ticonderoga, and after exchanging a few Shot, made a good Retreat with the Loss of 3 Men only.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Lunae, 4 ho. P.M. May 29th, 1775.

A Letter of the 27th instant by express from the Honorable Jonathan Trumbull, Governor of the Colony of Connecticut, on behalf of the General Assembly of that Colony was read.

The copy of the Letter [from Colonel Benedict Arnold, dated] Crown Point, May 23d, 1775, [enclosed in the Letter from Governor Trumbull was also read.]

The committee of correspondence (according to order,) brought in and reported a draught of a letter to the Governor and General Court of Connecticut, in answer to the letter from Governor Trumbull, above mentioned, which [was read and approved.]

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, signed by the President and transmitted with all convenient dispatch.

Ordered, That the Committee to report the ways and means for removing the cannon and stores from Ticonderoga, do without delay and as privately as possible, direct one hundred barrels of pork, two hundred barrels of flour, and twenty barrels of rum, to be sent forward to Albany towards supplying the garrisons at Crown Point and Ticonderoga.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 16-18.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, May 29, 1775

On motion, *Resolved*, That no provisions or necessities of any kind be exported to the island of Nantucket, except from the colony of Massachusetts bay,

the convention of which colony is desired to take measures for effectually providing the sd Island, upon their application to purchase the same, with as much provision, as shall be necessary for its internal use and no more.

The Congress deeming it of great importance to North America, that the British fishery should not be furnished with provisions from this continent thro' Nantucket, earnestly recommend a vigilant execution of this resolve to all committees.

Ordered, That the above resolve be immediately published.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 70, 71.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

Committee met. Monday 29 May 1775. –

Ordered that all Masters of Vessels, arriving in Patapsco River do appear before the Committee at their Rooms, on the Monday next after their Arrival between the Hours of 10 & 12 A M. at which Time and Place the Committee will attend – it is expected that the Owners and Consignees of Vessels will in future be more punctual in directing the Attendance of the Masters, or they with the Masters will be reported to the Publick as Delinquents

Ordered that the above be printed in Dunlaps & Goddards Papers –

1. Balt. Com., LC.

HENRY TUCKER TO ST. GEORGE TUCKER ¹

[Extract]

Bermuda 29th May 1775

Cap. Dill in a Vessel belonging to Messrs. Richd. & Jno. Jennings now goes to Virginia with intentions to get a load of corn and have desired me to write to you requesting your Assistance in Case there should be any Stop put to the Exportation of provisions . . . I shall add that Our Legislature have passed a Law prohibiting the Exportation of all Provisions from hence so that there is no fear of any that comes here will be Suffd. to be sent from the Island and Cap. Dill has orders to enter into any Engagements that may be required to that purpose. I need not tell the distress we shall soon be in if we are not permitted to have provisions from America as it is impossible for us to subsist without their Assistance.

Shou'd it be urged that we have not shewn any Inclinations towards the Americans by coming into resolutions similar to theirs I must Answer That no people are more fond of Liberty than the Bermudians, but as they can be of no service to the Cause and indeed as little hurt, our Situation is such that we lye intirely at the Mercy of Great Britain who shou'd we offend by such resolutions wd. undoubtedly distress us, which could effectually be done even to a famine by only Sending 2 small vessels of War to be Stationed at the East and West ends of the Island which wd. prevent any Vessel coming to us.

1. Tucker-Coleman Papers, CW.

30 May

JONATHAN PARSONS, JR., TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen:

St. John's, Newfoundland, May 30, 1775

As liberty is the blessing, and ought to be the care of all men, I need no other apology for this letter, than to acquaint you I am an American, of Newburyport, New England. On my arrival here, the 19th instant, from the Mediterranean, I was informed of the care you had taken with regard to the exportation of bread and flour to this Island . . . the necessities of the people here for bread and flour are so great, that I doubt not you will have numbers of vessels on your coast, under various pretexts to get bread and flour to supply them. They are now at their wits end to find means to acquire the necessaries of life; yet such is their inveterate enmity against the Americans, that they cannot help breathing out their malice at every opportunity, where their interest is not immediately affected. Last Saturday [May 27] a schooner arrived here, belonging to Salem, in New England, from a fishing voyage; the merchants immediately sent the crier through the Town, to notify a meeting at seven that evening, which was adjourned to Sunday, to consult on the matter. It seems they were in hopes to get some hold of her from some Acts of Parliament relative to the regulation of the fishery in this Island, but finding their expectations fail them, that they could not get her seized, nor prevent an entry, they mustered their forces, seized upon and sent her to Sea; and what is more surprising to me is (if I am rightly informed) that upon a promise of indemnification, they obtained an order from the Judge of the Admiralty for this extraordinary procedure, and that after her being admitted to a legal entry in the Custom-House.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 851.

"REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER" ¹

May 1775 At 1 P M saluted His Excellency Govr [John] Wentworth with 17
Tuesday 30th Guns, upon his coming on board & 17 more upon his leaving
the Ship

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Scarborough, Piscataqua 30th May 1775

Sir I received your Letter of the 25th Inst and likewise your Order with the two restraining Bills and Orders to stop and send to Boston all Vessels loaded with Provisions; In my last I acquainted You of my giving Lieut Mowat Orders to proceed to Halifax, the Wind continuing Easterly, made it impossible for him to get out of the Harbour, on the 23d he sent me a Copy of your Order, which he had received by Mr Tyng in a small Sloop from Boston desiring he might remain at Falmouth, till further Orders, in consequence of which, I ordered him there as

soon as he could get ready, which took up some time, as he was in want of Provisions.

Yesterday two Sloops arrived here from Long Island, loaded with Corn, Flour, Pork, and Bread, which I have stopt and sent round to Boston agreeable to your Orders.

The Stopping of these Vessels have been the cause of great Commotions in the Town of Portsmouth, A Committee applied to the Governor to have them discharged by either writing to me or coming down himself, accordingly he came Onboard here Yesterday in the afternoon he ask'd me whether I could consistent with my Orders allow those Vessels to go to Town and unload, I told him, I could not and shewed him your Orders to me, he said it might be of fatal consequences to many of the King's Subjects – I told him I could not help that, I must do my duty, he then delivered me a Paper a Copy of which I herewith transmit to You,² I have just been inform'd there is a large body of People, come into Portsmouth from the Country, The Collector of the Customs and two or three other Friends to Government have taken shelter Onboard the *Scarborough*, wether the Governor means to come onboard I cannot as yet inform You, for when he came onboard Yesterday he was oblige to promise the people of the Town that he would return again so that he has not the least power or authority there; They threaten much for two or three thousand people to come down and destroy the *Scarboroh*; If they should have the madness to attempt any thing of that kind You may be assured the King's Ship will be defended; it was a very lucky Circumstance of my dismantling the Fort for they might very easily have come in and taken possession of it. There was a battery about a Mile and half from where I lay of eight twenty four Pounders, there are no Carriages to them, I heard they intended to move them upon an eminence in order to fire upon the *Scarboroh* Upon my hearing of their intentions, I ordered the Gunner to go onshore and spike them up, which has render'd them useless for the present.

I send these two Vessels round under the protection of the *Canceaux*, for if I had sent them singly by themselves, there were Arm'd Boats all ready to pursue them and likewise expresses have been sent to Newbury and Cape Ann to fit out Vessels to intercept them, as therefore it is morally impossible for me to send any Vessels that may be stop't with Provisions round to Boston without having an Armed Vessel to accompany them there otherwise they will be seized and the people in them very ill treated, if not put to death. I don't know any other Scheme, that will have a great effect in bringing the People of this Province to a due sense of the Duty that they owe to the Mother Country than that of stopping their Provisions, I therefore think it an Object worthy of Attention.

I am very much obliged to You for your polite Approbation of my Conduct since I have been in this Port, You may be assured that nothing shall be wanting on my part in doing every thing in my power for the good of His Majesty's Service and the protection of his Servants. I am [&c.]

And^w Barkley

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

2. See Portsmouth Merchants to Wentworth, May 29, 1775.

NEWBURYPORT COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Newburyport, May 30, 1775

This letter [of 29 May from Portsmouth Committee of Correspondence] was received this morning by the Committee of this Town; and as the Admiral's orders, herein mentioned, may affect every part of the Continent, we think it our duty to send it forward to the Committee of Safety for the Province, or to the Congress.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Cambridge] May 30, 1775

Elisha Lettinwell was directed to proceed with two Teams to Chelsea, and bring from thence the Cannon and other Stores saved from the Schooner [*Diana*] which has been burned by our people, and to lodge said Stores in this Town.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 764, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Preston*, CAPTAIN JOHN ROBINSON, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Remarks Boston Harbour.

Tuesday 30 P M a Number of the Rebels came and set fire to a Dwelling House and some barns on Noddles Island fired several Shot to prevent their setting fire to our stores that were there.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] May, 30th. [1775]

The Rebels this morning set fire to a dwelling house upon the same [Noddles] Island: the house was almost close to the shore and within reach of the Admiral's Guns, which have been playing upon the Island every now and then most of the morning, whether because any Men were seen or only just to frighten them I don't know; a schooner was also sent to fire along shore; they had better take care not to run aground and get burnt by the Yankies, like the last. Near this house there was an outhouse where there were several Navy stores, which the Admiral has been taking out all day, and to protect the Men at that work he sent a flat Boat with a gun in it along shore, which has been firing frequently at the Rebels I suppose.

1. Barker, *Dairy*, 52, 53.

CHARTER PARTY FOR SLOOP *Molly* ¹

Boston May 30th 1775.

This Charter Party or Agreement made this Day between Majr William Sherriff Dy Qr Mr General, on the One part & Ephraim Perkins of the County of York in cape porpus, on the Other part.

Witnesseth that the said Perkins being Owner of the Sloop *Molly* himself Master, burthen about Eighty Eight Tuns, Doth hereby covenant and agree, that the said Sloop shall proceed from this Harbour to Nova Scotia, and there take on Board such Laden, as shall be Directed by the said Majr Wm Sherriff, & proceed Immediately back to this Port. Said Perkins Maning Victualing & paying all charges of the Voyage.

In Consideration of which the above said Majr Wm Sherriff, Doth promise to pay to the said Perkins for the Run or Voyage of said Vessell, One Hundred and Eighty Dollars, and Six Dollars p Day Demurrage if Detained longer than Ten Working Days at the Port where she Loads, and Six Days where she Delivers her Cargo –

For the true and faithfull performance of the above Agreement we each of us Bind our selves in the penal sum of five hundred pounds Sterling money of Great Brittain –

In Witness hereunto we have sett our hands and Seals this Thirtyeth day of May in the Year of our Lord. 1775 –

Witness. Jos. Goldthwait

Will^m Shirreff D Q M G

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 111.

MAJOR WILLIAM SHIRREFF, BRITISH DEPUTY QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, TO
EPHRAIM PERKINS ¹

Sr You will emediatey proceed with the Sloop *Molly* under yr Command to Windsor in the Bay of Funda & Recieve Such orders As Mr [Josiah] Jones will give You Respecting your Cargo. making every dispatch thats Possible. taking Care to touch at No Other Harbour unless it be absolutely Necessary –

Jos: Goldthwait for William Sherriff D Qr Mr Gl

Boston May 30. 1775

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 112.

WILLIAM SHIRREFF, BRITISH DEPUTY QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, TO DAY
& SCOTT, MERCHANTS AT WINDSOR, NOVA SCOTIA ¹

[Extract]

Gentlemen/

Boston 30th May 1775

The bearer Mr Josiah Jones with the Sloop *Polly* [sic *Molly*] Epharim Perkins Master is Charterd for Windsor in Nova Scotia in order to Receive from You Hay, and Oats – Am therefore to desire you will use every endeavor to Dispatch him as soon as possible agreeable to my Letter wrote you via Halifax, the 29th Inst . . .

I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Will^m Shirreff

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 114.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

In Holmes's Hole

Tuesday 30 at 8 A M Weighd and Came to Sail . . . at 2 P M Anchord in Holmes Hole Veer'd to 1/2 Cable Sent our boats on Board two Sloops and put 2 men [on board them] at 6 fird four Six pounders, Shotted with Round and Grape to bring too a boat ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

2. According to Graves's Conduct Prize List, MassHS Transcript, none of these vessels was carried into Boston.

HENRY WARD TO SAMUEL WARD ¹

[Extract]

Providence May 30th 1775.

Webster arrived at Newport with a Load of Beef Pork &c on Friday the 19th from New York said to be bound to Nantucket. All the Provisions on Board he says belonged to William & Francis Rotch excepting 70 Barrels of Pork – consigned to himself which he sold to George Rome. All the Circumstances attending this Affair concur to give the strongest Suspicions that these Provisions were purchased for Use of the Enemy. Webster is gone with his Vessel to Boston, by whom the Tories in Newport have sent about 20 Sheep, a Quantity of fresh Butter and all the Eggs in the Town.²

A Ship belonging to Christo Champlin arrived at Newport last Saturday Morning [May 27] from Baltimore laden with Flour and Corn for Ireland. She was immediately taken into Possession by the King's Ships and is destined to Boston – Mr Champlin declares that he was utterly ignorant of her coming to Newport that she put in for a Supply of Wood and Water; and that upon his Application to [Captain] Wallace to permit his Ship to pursue her Voyage, he was denied and told by Wallace that he had positive Orders from Admiral Greaves to seize every Vessel he could take with Provisions and send them to Boston.

1. Samuel Ward Papers, RIHS.

2. See *Newport Mercury*, May 29, 1775.JOHN LAWRENCE, TREASURER OF CONNECTICUT, TO NATHANIEL SHAW JR.¹

Sir

Hartford May 30th 1775.

I now send you by your Brother, Fifteen Hundred pounds, in order to procure the quantity, I wrote to you about: This is all the Money I have by me at present, If you stand in need of more, shall be able to supply you soon. Shall expect if possible, you will make up what is lacking of the first parcel, and likewise the number I wrote to you for, in my last. Be so good as to inform the Govr or me, from Time to Time, the prospect you have of getting of it.

I shall send to you soon, either by land, or Water, for some of that article to come to this Town. –

The Money, on Acct of the Delegates, I cannot send now, as the Officers are here waiting for money, and cannot be Suplied, as fast as they want it. I am [&c.]

John Lawrence

1. Shaw Transcripts, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York, Die Martis] 5 ho. P.M. May 30, 1775

Mr. [John Morin] Scott moved the subject matter of the resolves of the Continental Congress on the 25th of May instant, and transmitted to this Congress, be immediately taken into consideration . . .

Ordered, That Captain [Richard] Montgomerie, Mr. [Henry] Glen, Mr. Robert Yates, Colo. [James] Van Cortlandt and Colo. [James] Holmes be a Committee to view the ground at or near King's Bridge, and report to this Congress whether the ground near King's Bridge will admit of making a Fortification there that will be tenable; and at what particular place the ground will admit of making the best and most tenable Fortification; and that they call to their assistance such persons as they shall think necessary, and make report to this Congress with all convenient speed.

The Congress then took into consideration that part of the resolves of the Continental Congress which directs the erecting of Fortifications in the Highlands on Hudson's river.

Ordered, That Colo. [James] Clinton and Mr. [Christopher] Tappen be a committee (and that they take to their assistance such persons as they shall think necessary,) to go to the Highlands and view the banks of the Hudson's river there, and report to this Congress the most proper place for erecting one or more fortifications; and likewise an estimate of the expence that will attend erecting the same.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 20.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION OF TALBOT COUNTY,
MARYLAND ¹

At a meeting of the Committee of Observation for Talbot County, [30th of May, 1775] at the Court-House of the said County [at Easton]

On the 30th instant the Committee . . . met according to appointment, when the deputation . . . appeared and reported that they went to Mr. [James] Braddock's store, but not finding him at home, they left a copy of the letter from the Committee of Baltimore Town, together with a copy of the order of this Committee, to be delivered to him when he should return.²

In consequence of this Mr. Braddock appeared before the Committee, and informed them "that he did expect the Ship *Johnston* shortly to arrive in Miles River, but that he had no advice, nor had he any reason to believe (except from the aforesaid letter from the Baltimore Town Committee) that the Ship would bring either Dry Goods or Salt."

Mr. Braddock did likewise at the same time, voluntarily enter into the following engagement and promise: "That if the Ship *Johnston* or any other vessel having on board any Goods or Merchandise prohibited by the American Association, shall come addressed to him, or to any other agent or factor for Mr. Gildart, he will, in such an event, neither directly nor indirectly receive, nor assist in landing, storing, or following the said Goods or Merchandise, but that, on the contrary, he will, immediately and forthwith, give notice of the arrival of the said ship or other vessel to the above deputation, or to some four of them, (who are appointed to go on board such ship or vessel, and to examine the papers, viz: the manifest,

the cockets, and log-book) and that he would give directions for the immediate return of any ship or vessel addressed to him, without breaking bulk."

Mr. Braddock delivered, at the same time, to the Committee an inventory of the Goods he has now on hand, with which they declared themselves satisfied for the present.

Ordered, That the above proceedings be published in the *Maryland Gazette*.
Signed by order of the Committee

Robert Wilson, Clerk, pro. tem.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 682, 683.

2. See Talbot County Committee minutes for May 23, 1775.

31 May

MESHECH WEARE TO THE PRESIDENT, PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW
HAMPSHIRE, EXETER ¹

Gentlemen:

May 31, 1775

As you have now under your consideration the important affair of raising Troops and appointing them to proper stations, as well for the safety and defense of this Province, as for promoting the common cause at this critical and alarming season, we doubt not but you will kindly receive intimations from any number of persons of things which appear to them of great importance; we therefore beg leave to represent, from frequent alarms we have had, and from authentick advice from General [Artemus] Ward, that a number of armed cutters are sailed from Boston, for what design is unknown. We apprehend it to be absolutely necessary that a proper proportion of the Troops to be raised in this Province be immediately assigned for the defence of our sea coast; and permit us to suggest, that if a proper number of Troops for this purpose were ordered to be raised in the Towns near the sea-coasts, it would greatly facilitate the raising the men immediately, and be a great help for procuring immediate supplies, and we can conceive will be must more service to the common cause than sending our men elsewhere. It will also be a great discouragement to men enlisting to be sent to a distance, at the same time that they leave their friends and substance exposed by their absence, when they themselves might be more advantageously employed for there defence.

We therefore pray that a proper quota of men may be assigned, and Officers for enlisting them, for this service, as soon as may be, which we submit to your wisdom and determination.

Meshech Weare

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 869.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Exeter] Wednesday, May 31. 1775

Voted, That the thanks of this Congress be given to the party, who this day have removed Sundry Cannon from the sea-coast in this Colony to the town of Portsmouth & to Dr. Hall Jackson in particular for assisting in the matter & bringing us the Intelligence.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 493, 494.

H. WENTWORTH TO MATTHEW THORNTON, PRESIDENT OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS, EXETER ¹

Sir –

Portsmo 31st May, 1775.

We beg leave to inform you that this day eight Pieces of cannon were removed from Jerry's Point to this Town & that threats are thereon thrown out by the Capt. of the Man-of-War that in case he hear of any preparation of Rafts or any other Means being used to annoy him he shall come up with his ship to fire upon the Town. We would submit it to the Wisdom of the Congress whether these Guns should not immediately be placed in some convenient Battery to prevent this mischief & whether a Committee should not be forthwith employed for this purpose. The Guns are 6 Twenty-four and two Thirty-two Pounders, and its absolutely necessary that we be provided with ammunition & carriages to save them, of which we are entirely destitute.

I am by order of the Committee, &c.

H. Wentworth

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 377.

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Scarborough, Piscataqua May 31st 1775.

Sir Since I wrote You Yesterday there is a number of People about three or four hundred, this morning have assembled themselves in Arms on the Island where I am and are now in Possession of the Fort, which I mentioned in my former Letter, and am inform'd they are going to bring Cannon down to it, The *Canceaux* got under Sail with the two Victualling Sloops this Morning but upon these people assembling, I have stop't her and ordered her to lay off the Battery and have sent the two Victualling Sloops under the care of the *Spinckes* [*Sphynx*] Sloop, I shall keep the *Canceaux* here till I have your further Orders, all communication between us and the Town is entirely stop't and I hear the Governor is confined to his House.

sign'd Andw Barkley

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Canceaux*, HENRY MOWAT, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

At Single Anchor Piscataqua River

Wednesday 31 A M Light Airs and hazy – at 8 A M weighed and came to sail in Co with the *Spinckes* [*Sphynx*] Tender, and two Provision Sloops, ½ past 9 came onbd the *Scarboroughs* Boat with Orders to stand off and on Little Harbor, – Saw a great No of Armed People at the No point of Ditto, supposed they had been taking away some Old Cannon that lay there – at 11 the *Spinckes* was ordered to Boston with the Provision Vessels – at Noon all the Men disappeared – standing off an on.
at 3 P M came onbd Orders from the *Scarborough* [to] return to the Harbor – at 5 Anchored there in 9 fms water – Saw a

No of People on Battery Hill, at 9 hove up and went near the *Scarborough*, and moored with the Stream Anchor and Cable –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4136.

“REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER”¹

May 1775 A M sent an Officer & 4 men to carry two Vessels to Boston.
Wednesday 31st P M empd in fixing Boarding Netts, at 1 the *Canceaux* &
the 2 Sloops sailed; at 4 the *Canceaux* anchd here.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, May 31, 1775

Ordered, That the Papers relative to the Fortresses at Ticonderoga, &c. be laid before the Congress.

The Papers being read.

Resolved, That Mr. [Elisha] Phelps, who was the bearer of some of them, be introduced to the Congress.

After information from Mr. Phelps,

Ordered, That the President, Mr. [Jonathan] Glover, Col. Nicholson, Dr. [John] Taylor, Mr. [Timothy] Edwards, Colonel [Nathaniel] Dwight, Dr. [Joseph] Wheeler, Mr. [John] Hale, and Dr. [Daniel] Whiting, be a Committee to take the said Papers into consideration, to sit forthwith, and report as soon as may be.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1379, 1380, from Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Preston*, CAPTAIN JOHN ROBINSON,
COMMANDING¹

May 1775 Remarks Boston Harbour
Wednesday 31 A M made the Signal for all boats Mann'd and Arm'd which
with a Party of Marines took all our stores off [Noddles Island]

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Glasgow*, TYRINGHAM HOWE, COMMANDING¹

1775 May Moor'd in Boston Harbour
Wednesday 31 Modr & hazey at 2 P M the Rebels came on Noddle Island &
fired all the houses by which means was lost at the Cooperage
house, Butts twelve, punches fifteen, Hh'ds ten, Barrells twelve,
all full hoopd with 134 Iron hoops & all the Cocpers tools

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN TUCKER AND OTHERS¹

We the Subscribers Testify and Say, that on the 29th day of May 1775 Captain [John] Linsey Commander of a Ship of war then at Tarpaulin Cove: Came with a Number of armed men and landed on one of the Elizabeth Islands

called Reskatemeth and came to the place where the men that oned part of the Stock on Said Island were Sheering their Sheep and demanded the Sheep Saying and promising that he would pay for them and give the full value of the Sheep or words to that purpose but the owners of Said Sheep told him that they were unwilling to part with them, but if he would take them they Should not molest him as most of the owners of the Sheep were of the people Called Quakers and that they would not be concerned in Defending themselves or their Interest by force of Armes but would treat him with civility but Said Capten with his men took Said Sheep and Carried them away, Some Shorn and many not Shorn: the Sheep were hurried away in Such a manner that we Could not take an account of the number with exactness but according to the best of our judgment the numbers and value of the Sheep are as follows viz –

Took from Joseph Tucker and Sons 93 Sheep, value £68–8[s,]–0 L[awful] money

Took from Jeremiah Robinson 17 Sheep, value £12–4[s]–10[d] L[awful] money

Took from William & Elisha Robinson 24 Sheep, value £14–8[s,]–0 L[awful] money

Took from Ebenezer Meiggs 72 Sheep value £51–15[s,]–6[d.] L[awful] money

John Tucker

Elisha Robinson

Jeremiah Robinson

Ebenezer Meiggs

Barnstable, ss., May 31, 1775

Then the above named Ebenezer Meiggs made oath to the truth of the above written by him Subscribed and the above named John Tucker Jeremiah Robinson and Elisha Robinson, being of the people called Quakers affirmed to the truth of the above written, by them Subscribed.

Before me

Tho^s Smith

Justice of the Peace.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 428. Printed in the *Boston Gazette*, Watertown, August 7, 1775, with the following preface: "Friend EDES, by inserting the following you will oblige many of your Friends and Customers, J.R."

DEPOSITION OF ELISHA NYE ¹

[Barnstable, Mass.] May 31, 1775.

I, Elisha Nye, Inholder Living on one of the Elizabeth Islands, Commonly Called Naushan, and near to Tarpalan Cove, Testafieth and saith, that some Time about the 5th of May, the Sloop of War called the *Faulkland* [*Falcon*], Command'd by Capt. [John] Linzey, came into the Cove, and as soon as the Vessel had come to Anchor, the Captain came on Shore with his Boat's Crew, all Armed, and came to the House and Said unto the Deponent "you need not be Scard;" upon which he told him it was Enough to Scare any Body to see so many Men come on Shore Armed; And the Women are all Fled and to where he knew not; upon which Capt Linzey told Him to call them in, for he did not mean to hurt any Body – upon which Promise, I & my Family were Satisfyed; Soon after that,

the Captain asked to walk with him; which he Comply'd with; and in the Course of the walk, he demanded to know what Stock I had, and Added to tell him Right, for if he did not, he would take all that he met; upon which I gave him the Account. Then the Captain told me, the Deponent, if I sold any one of them he would take the Remainder by force; upon which I told him, if he were here when they were fit for market he might have them, paying the Price I used to have. – Soon after, he went to Rhode Island, and Return'd back in a few Days; after which, he used to pass & Repass the Island allmost every day, mostly in Company with the Doctor of the Ship, leaving down the fences Repeatedly, which let the Cattle often mix together, which I told the Doctor was a great Damage. the Doctor's Answer was, "then you may put it up yourselves for I will not," and often talked in an Abusive Insulting manner that he, the Doctor, would soon take what he wanted without any pay – On the 26th Instant a Sloop came into the Cove, with about Twenty Passengers, Men, Women, & Children in great Distress for Provisions, and made application to me for Supplyes. Capt Linzey knowing that, (his Boat having boarded her) sent his Boat on Shore, and forbid my letting them have any, Than I advised them to apply to Capt Linzey, and see if they could not prevail upon him to let them have some; accordingly they went; Afterwards the Captain of the Sloop told me, that he absolutely Refused them, and said "Damn the Dog that would let them have any; and if they were not gone immediately, he would Sink them.[""] upon which, they set sail Immediately without any Supplyes – And further, the Deponent Declareth, that the Doctor came on shore, and said that the Captain's Orders were, that I should go with him, the said Doctor and Destroy all the Boats belonging to the Island. I told him I could not go upon such Business as that; he said he would send me on board the Ship if I did not go; upon which I found I must Comply, and Accordingly went with him, and saw him, the Doctor, Stave three Boats. – On the 29th, about Eight o'Clock in the Evening Lo, the said Doctor came on Shore, and told me he had come for my Sheep, upon which, I told him they were out in the Pasture and I could not get them into the pen it being Dark, but would fetch them in as Early in the Morning as he pleased – the Answer from the Doctor was, "Damn you! what did you turn them out for?" – the Reason, I told him, was, that they had got out their own Sheep, and did not say any thing more about when they should want mine, and I thought it best the Sheep should be let out to feed; upon which, the said Doctr said to me, "Damn you! go on Board the Ship and I'll see what they were turnd out for." – I told him I would not, but would go and try to get the Sheep up: he said "Well, Damn you! make haste"! and Swang his Sword over my head, – but upon Trial I found it so Dark I could not get them in; but, on my Return, was Inform'd that he, the Doctor had sent onboard for more help to Carry me & my Brother on board the Ship; upon which, with the Abuses & threats I had Received before, I thought it Time to make my Escape, which I did, to the main land and begged the Assistance of the People, who Readily came to my Assistance. – When I Return'd, which was about three o'Clock in the Morning, Some of my Family told me, they had been on shore, armed, and taken all my Calves, being Seven in Number; two of the poorest & Smalest, they sent on shore in the Morning, the Others, with four Sheep they had some days before; they carried them off without paying any

thing for them. – I do further Declare the Abuses and threats I Received from Capt Linzey & the Doctor were the Occasion of my Moving off the Island, leaving my Interest, and I Declare that I never Refused Capt Linzey or any other person Belonging to any ship of war, Entertainment in my House or Supply of Provisions that I had on my farm that I could Spare and I further Declare that on the night of the 29th instant afforesaid [the] Doctor (as my wife Informs me) Came on Shore and Demanded my gun with his Sword in hand which she Delivered to him and I have not Seen it Since tho the only weapon of Defence that I had on the Island: the value of the Sheep Calves and Gun which they took frome me and the use of my Horse and well are as follows viz: –

	Elisha Nye Lawfull Money
four sheep value-----	£2-16-0
3 Calves four Month old-----	3- 6-0
3 Calves two Months old-----	2- 8-0
4 Quarters of veal, weight 60 pounds Sold before and delivered--	0-16-0
one Gun, taken out of my House by the Doctor of the Ship of great value -----	3-00-0
Riding my Horse and use of my Well-----	3-00-0
	<hr/>
	£15- 6-0

[Endorsed]

Elisha Nye

Barnstable Ss May the 31st: 1775

then the within and above Named Elisha Nye made oath to the within and above written Deposition and account as the Truth and by him Subscribed –
Before me – Tho^s: Smith, Justce of the Peace

1. Mass Arch., vol. 193, 321–324.

STEPHEN NYE TO COLONEL NATHANIEL FREEMAN ¹

Sir

Sandwich [Mass.] May 31st, 1775

I would give you a relation of Capn, [John] Linsey, proceeding at the Islands since your going from here. On Sunday [May 28] he recd a reinforcement by a Schooner from Boston, & proceeded from thence to the West End of the Island where they took off about Two Hundred Sheep; chiefly from Tuckers Island which belonged to John Wing from there they came down to the cove & ordered the Sheep there to be yarded which was accordingly done, but it being near Night they concluded to leave them in the Yard until morning. They really insulted abused & threatned the People for their backwardness in assisting them. In the Night word was brought off to Falmouth of the above proceedings (by [Elisha] Nye who immediately went back to take care of his Family) on which a Number of men well equipt immediately went on the Island; before there arrival at the cove the Sheep were turned out of the Yard into the Woods. The People from the Ship had been on Shore & on finding the Sheep were gone were stil more enraged & took all the arms they could find, 6 Calves, & the Hoggs and carried

them off. When the People from Falmouth got to the cove (which was before Day) they Placed themselves in the Bushes & lay undiscovered. In the morning the Boat came on Shore with the Doctor Boatswain &c; whom they might have taken had they not expected the Capn. ashore soon, however the Boat soon went back without going to the House & both Vessels immediately weighed Anchor & went Down to Homes' Hole where they lay last Night at Anchor. Capn [Barachiah] Bassett is now on the Island with about 50 Men, & will Tarry to Guard the Stock until we have the advice of the congress what method is best to take. By the best account there is not less than Four Thousand Sheep & between Two & three Hundred Horned cattle & a Number of Horses in the Island of Naushaun & Perhaps nigh as many on the other Islands. It is generally Judged That Fifty or Sixty Men Placed on the Island at Tarpaulin Cove would Guard the above Stock. It is certainly impracticable to bring it off & it must most certainly either be destroyed where it is or fall into the Hands of our Enemies. Which is best the Congress must Judge. Their Determination we should be Glad of as soon as Possible for we fear the men now there will be impatient to come off unless they are put under Pay. Capn Bassett is perhaps the best officer that can be placed there His Courage & Conduct have been heretofore well approved, & he is moreover well acquainted with the Ground on the Island which must certainly be of great advantage. There went a Number of men from This Town Some of whom are (we conclude now on the Island) We hope the Congress will let us have there advice & Determination as Soon as Possible and Pray that in all their Determinations they will be Councelled by the Supream Councillor & are Sir [&c.]

Stephen Nye

To Coll Nathel Freeman to be communicated to the Congress

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 284.

COLONEL JOSEPH HENSHAW TO COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD ¹

Sir:

Hartford, May 31, 1775

By Captain [Jonathan] Brown I would advise you of my consulting the General Assembly of this Colony respecting the fortress at Ticonderoga. They have ordered Colonel [Benjamin] Hinman to take the command there with one thousand men, and four Companies raising at Albany, artificers, &c. to repair and defend that post. It is expected you will continue with Colonel [Ethan] Allen, and put the place in the best posture of defence you are able, and guard against any surprise from the enemy till the succours arrive, and you receive further directions from the Congress.² I should have proceeded from hence to Ticonderoga, but some events taking place since my departure from the Congress, makes it necessary for me to repair immediately thither.

I am, Sir [&c.]

Joseph Henshaw

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 724, from Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

2. Henshaw failed to follow the instructions given to him on May 27 by the Massachusetts Provincial Congress which directed that if Connecticut had made provision for garrisoning Ticonderoga, Arnold should return to Watertown "and render accounts of his expences in that expedition, in order that he may be honourably discharged."

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, May 31, 1775

A Letter from Col. [Benedict] Arnold, dated Crown Point, 23 May, 1775, was laid before the Congress, informing that he had certain intelligence, that "on the 19th there were then 400 regulars at St. John's, making all possible preparations to cross the Lake, and expected to be joined by a number of Indians, with a design of retaking Crown-point and Ticonderoga," and earnestly calling for a reinforcement and supplies. This letter being taken into consideration,

Resolved, That the Governor of Connecticut be requested immediately to send a strong reinforcement to the garrisons of Crown Point and Ticonderoga, and that so many of the cannon and other stores he retained, as may be necessary for the immediate defence of those posts, until further orders from this Congress, and that the provincial Convention of New York be informed of this resolve, and desire of Congress, that he shd appoint a person, in whom he can confide, to command the forces at Crown Point and Ticonderoga.
for the lakes.

Ordered, That the above resolve be immediately transmitted in a letter by the prest to Govr [Jonathan] Trumbull, and the convention of New York.

Ordered, That the president in his letter acquaint Gov. Trumbull, that it is the desire of Congress, that he shd appoint a person, in whom he can confide, to command the forces at Crown Point and Ticonderoga.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 73, 74.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO GEORGE WILLIAM FAIRFAX¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia, May 31, 1775.

Before this Letter can reach you, you must, undoubtedly, have received an Account of the engagement in the Massachusetts Bay between the Ministerial Troops (for we do not, nor cannot yet prevail upon ourselves to call them the King's Troops) and the Provincials of that Government . . .

General Gage acknowledges, that the detachment under Lieutenant Colonel Smith was sent out to destroy private property; or, in other Words, to destroy a Magazine which self preservation obliged the Inhabitants to establish. And he also confesses, in effect at least, that his Men made a very precipitate retreat from Concord, notwithstanding the reinforcement under Lord Piercy, the last of which may serve to convince Lord Sandwich (and others of the same sentiment) that the Americans will fight for their Liberties and property, however pusilanimous, in his Lordship's Eye, they may appear in other respects.

From the best Accounts I have been able to collect of that affair; indeed from every one, I believe the fact, stripped of all colouring, to be plainly this, that if the retreat had not been as precipitate as it was (and God knows it could not well have been more so) the Ministerial Troops must have surrendered, or been totally cut off: For they had not arrived in Charlestown (under cover of their Ships) half an hour, before a powerful body of Men from *Marblehead* and *Salem* were at their heels, and must, if they had happened to have been up one hour sooner, inevitably intercepted their retreat to Charlestown. Unhappy it is though

to reflect, that a Brother's Sword has been sheathed in a Brother's breast, and that, the once happy and peaceful plains of America are either to be drenched with Blood, or Inhabited by Slaves. Sad alternative! But can a virtuous Man hesitate in his choice?

1. John C. Fitzpatrick, ed., *The Writings of George Washington* (Washington, 1921–1940), III, 290–292. Hereafter cited as Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE DARLEY, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 31 May [1775]

I wrote you the 24th Inst by [Alexander] Kennedy since then have not had the plesure of hearing from you. Kennedey sailed the 25th and was at Annapolis 28th & I hope Ere this is Near the Capes. tho the winds has been light. . . . I know not any more I have to Say to you about the Schooner ² than I have allredy done. only that Unless Matters Gets worse than the[y] Appear yet that she will be Admitted with Servants & I would hope to get them Sold for Produce if thers any Shipping of it, & Arms & Ammunition from any place will be Admitted

Should the[y] not pass any Acts of Parliment to Restrict the trade of the Southern Provinces, produce will be Shipped for Lisbon &c in that Case Kenedy would stand as Good a Chance as another for a freight, but Shall write you more of this when I se[e] what our Congress Concludes on in the main time Should a Tolarable offer be made for Kennedy in London would advise you to Accept it, as I think she is a Ship that will be well liked there if Kennedy keeps her in good order.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Schooner *Industry*.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE TOWN OF NEWBERN AND COUNTY OF CRAVEN [NORTH CAROLINA] ¹

In the Committee at Newbern, May 31, 1775

Whereas it appears by Letters from the Committees of Correspondence in *New York* and *Philadelphia*, and by the Public Papers, that all Exportation to *Quebec*, *Nova Scotia*, and *Newfoundland*, or any part of the fishing Coasts or Islands, is suspended:

Resolved, That the above Measure be recommended by the Committee to the Merchants and Inhabitants of this Town and County; and that from this Time no Provisions, or any other Necessaries, be sent from this Port to the Army or Navy at *Boston*, unless otherwise directed by the Continental Congress.

Whereas having received certain Intelligence that a most bloody and barbarous Action hath lately been committed by the Army under General [Thomas] Gage on the Inhabitants near *Boston*, whom they unmercifully fell upon and murdered in cool Blood, and without Provocation, as they marched through the Country, having no regard to Age, Sex, or Infirmary; at the same time ravaging the Country, burning, destroying, and laying all waste wherever they came, until at length they were met by a few Companies of Provincials who then thinking themselves justified by all the Laws of God and Nations, took up Arms in the

immediate Defence of their Lives, and by a manly Exertion of that brave Spirit which a good Cause never fails to inspire, they, though greatly their Inferiors as to Numbers, providentially put a Stop to their destructive Career, and forced them to retreat with Precipitation and much Loss, for near 20 Miles, to their fortified City of *Boston*, which unhappy devoted Place the Army now consider as their own Property, in open exclusion of the right Owners. – From all which it manifestly appears that the *British* Ministry mean no longer to receive the peaceable Addresses of the much injured People of *America*, on the Subject of their invaded Rights; but are determined, since they will not voluntarily make a total Surrender of their Freedom and Constitution, to wrest it from them by the brutal Hand of Violence. The People of *America* are therefore now driven to this fatal Extremity – either they must tamely submit to Slavery, and agree for themselves and their Posterity forever, to work for and maintain, with the Sweat of their Brows, their proud Masters and Overseers, the ministerial Pensioners, Placemen, and Hirelings, of every Denomination whatever; or they must resolve firmly and manfully to maintain those Rights, which God gave, and the Constitution warrants. The latter Resolution our Sister Colonies have unanimously adopted, and accordingly have now in the field not less, from the best Accounts we have received, than 25,000 Men, well disciplined, and equipt with a large Train of Artillery and every Kind of military Implement necessary for immediate Action.

1. Archives Moravian Church South, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. This is reproduced from an original broadside in English.

VICE ADMIRAL WILLIAM PARRY TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE
BRITISH ADMIRALTY ¹

Sir I desire You will please to acquaint the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that I received their Lordships Order of the 31st. of January last, respecting the illicit Trade between the Dutch Settlements and His Majesty's Colonies in America, and likewise their Lordships other order on the same subject dated the 27th of February last; in consequence whereof, I have given the necessary orders to the several Captains of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under my Command; and Instructed them to be very particular in this Service.

I have also received your letter of the 3d. of March last relative to the Ship *Prosperity*, and in obedience to their Lordships Command, have Ordered a good look out to be kept for her; Your other letter of the 1st of February last, I have likewise received, acquainting me that Vice Admiral [James] Young is to relieve me in the Command of His Majesty's Ships on this Station, and that it is their Lordships Orders that I hold myself in readiness to return to England on his arrival; His Majesty's Ship *Chatham* is now ready to proceed to Sea upon the shortest notice.

Captain Francis Grant Gordon arrived in English Harbour with His Majesty's Ship *Argo* the 20th. Instant, and I have, agreeably to their Lordships Orders taken her under my Command, and have sent the *Deal Castle* to England.

Enclosed is an Account of the State & Condition of His Majestys Ships and Vessels under my Command and another shewing the Disposition of them :

I am Sir [&c.]

Will^m Parry

Chatham in St John's Road Antigua the 31, May 1775

[Endorsed] Rd 12 July 1775

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

1 June

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Exeter] Thursday 1st of June, 1775.

Voted, That two companys, as soon as they can be properly mustered & Equipt be sent to guard the sea coast for the present.

Whereas in the course of the present disputes, it may be necessary to Import on the Risque of the Colony a Quantity of Military Stores,

Resolved, That the Commt of Supplies be and hereby are impowered & directed to import or cause to be Imported from any place whatever such & so many stores aforesd not exceeding the value of three Thousand Pounds L.M. & the same to risque at their discretion, or without making Insurance on the vessels or cargoes which may be so employed, sent out or imported.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 495.

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N. TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Scarbroh Piscataqua June 1st 1775

Sir I wrote to You Yesterday by Mr Fraser who I sent round to Boston in the *Spynx* Sloop, all communication between the Ship and Town is still stop't what measures they are pursuing in the Town I cannot inform You, the Guns which I spik'd up which I mentioned to You in my last, they have got up to Town before the *Canceaux* got off the Battery as Lt [Henry] Mowat informs me in his Letter they are preparing them for Service, there is a Hill abreast of Us in the Massachusetts side, which commands the Ship, they are now throwing up an Intrenchment and getting Cannon ready to mount there with an intention to fire on the Ship, there are two or three hundred Men Armed have been at work on it these two or three days past, all the Country are Armed and marching in bodys into the Town, it seems their whole design is if possible to drive the Ship out of the Harbour for further particulars I refer You to Mr [Thomas] Fisher Collector of the Customs at Salem who has been in Town, all the time these disturbances happened, I have taken forty or fifty Tons of Shot from the Fort and put it onboard a Sloop belonging to Capn [Thomas] Colsten for fear they might come in, in the night and steal them as there is no people in the fort, as I was informed they intended it, I hope I shall have Instructions how to act, against those people.

The Houses on both sides the Water are entirely deserted expecting the Ship to be attack'd every hour.

I am, Sir [&c.]

And^w Barkley

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

STEPHEN HOOPER TO COATES & REYNELL, MERCHANTS OF PHILADELPHIA ¹

Esteem'd Friends Reynell & Coates

Newbury Port June 1st 1775

My last to you, was of the 6th Ultimo, since which I remain without any of your much esteem'd, tho' in hourly Expectation of hearing from you, that Capt [William] Willcomb is arriv'd, I am now sensible that your Markett, must be extream dull for his Cargoe, therefore hope you have stored it for a Price, & sold the Brig, but if this should meet the Brig at Philadelphia, & the Cargoe not sold, I think it would be prudent, to reship her Cargoe for Newfoundland & fill her up with Bread & from thence proceed to the West Indies with a Load of Fish, or to Spain, if that sort of fish [co]uld be obtain'd, there; & should she proceed thither, ord[er the] Master to value himself on Mr. Robt Jenkins at St Johns, & take his Advice in what Manner its best to proceed from thence; & should she return to you, again I must beg you will keep her employ'd & give such Directions to the Master as you may think necessary — ² The Times here grow worse every Day, & what will be the Event, Time only can discover, we certainly are in a most unhappy Situation, & little prospect of any Relief I have a Brig now at home, with a Cargoe of Molasses which I am now selling here at 20d your Currency, & am about Loading her again for the West Indies for another Load of Molasses, but how she will make out, cannot say when she is ready to Return, if your Port is open she may return thither, but more of [this next] Time, I have only now to say that I am Your Friend

Stephen Hooper

1. Feinstone Collection, DLAR.

2. Hooper's instructions were too late, as Captain Willcomb, in the brig *Industry*, cleared the port of Philadelphia for Falmouth, England, about June 10, 1775. See *Pennsylvania Packet*, June 12, 1775.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER DATED JUNE 1, 1775, FROM THE PROVINCIAL CAMP AT CAMBRIDGE" ¹

When our people were engaged in taking the stock, &c. from Noddle's and Hog-Islands, the king's troops made an attack upon them. On Hog Island, the combat began about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and continued almost incessantly till midnight. The attack was made with cannon, swivels, and small arms, from an armed schooner, sloop, and eight or ten barges, upon our people, who had small arms only, but were very advantageously posted by Colonel [Israel] Putnam who got to them just in season to station and command them properly. He placed them in a ditch, up to their waists in water, and covered by the bank, to their necks: The Schooner, sloop and boats full of men, came within 12 or 15 rods of them, and gave our people a fine opportunity to place their shot well. About

midnight the fire ceased a little, and our people retreated to the mainland, where they were soon after joined by Capt. [Thomas Waite] Foster with two field pieces, which were planted on the way of Winnesimit ferry. At day light the combat was renewed, – as the schooner passed the ferry way, she was briskly attacked by our people, with the field pieces and small arms, which soon clearing her deck, she drifted on shore, where our people set fire to her, and she blew up, notwithstanding the utmost endeavours of the people in the boats, &c. to tow her off, and save her from destruction – In this they exposed themselves much to our fire, and suffered greatly. When they found the schooner was lost, they with difficulty towed off the sloop, much disabled, and retired to their den; and thus ended the combat, at about 7 o'clock in the morning. In the afternoon, (Sunday) our people got out of the wreck, 12 four pounders, 6 swivels, and every thing else that was valuable, without molestation; they afterwards removed or destroyed from both the Islands, all the stock, &c. viz. about 5 or 600 sheep, 30 horses, about as many cattle, a large quantity of hay, and burned all the barns and houses.

All this was done in sight, and as we may say, under the noses of the whole fleet and army at Boston, without molestation. – The killed of the enemy (viz. Gen. [Thomas] Gage's crew of enemies to the English constitution) they themselves allow to be more than 100, besides wounded; others, who have good opportunity to know, say, their killed and wounded, exceed 300, and I believe they have suffered as much as in their precipitate flight from Lexington, on the memorable 19th of April. Our killed none! wounded, three! Heaven apparently, and most evidently fights for us; covers our heads in the day of battle, and shields our people from the assaults of our common enemies. – What thanks can speak our gratitude.

1. *New York Journal*, June 15, 1775: "The following Extract of a letter, dated the first of June instant, in the Provincial Camp, at Cambridge, from a gentleman of undoubted veracity and intelligence, gives a more authentic, and in many respects a more particular account of the late action . . . than any that has appeared in the public papers."

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, MAY 25, TO THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1775

Cambridge, June 1.

We are informed, that in the [36-gun] *Cerberus* Frigate, Capt. Chads, who arrived at Boston last Thursday from England, came Passengers, Major-Generals [William] Howe, [Henry] Clinton, and [John] Burgoyne.

The Town of Salem, and other Parts of the County of Essex, were alarmed last Tuesday Morning [May 30] by the Appearance, off Salem Harbour, of 2 or 3 armed Vessels, supposed to be on some hostile Design. A large Body of Men immediately assembled: But nothing extraordinary being attempted by the Enemy, the People dispersed, after taking some necessary Measures for their future Safety.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Thursday, June 1, 1775. Afternoon

The Committee appointed to consider the Papers relating to Ticonderoga, &c., reported a Letter to Colonel Arnold; another to the Hon. William Williams, Esquire, Speaker of the Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut; and another to

the Provincial Congress of New Hampshire; which were read and accepted, and are as follows, viz:

Letter to Colonel Benedict Arnold

Sir: The Congress have received yours of the 19th and 23d of May, ult., per Captain [Jonathan] Brown and Captain [Elisha] Phelps, a copy of which has been sent to New Hampshire. They highly approve of, and take great satisfaction in the acquisitions you have made at Ticonderoga, Crown Point, on the Lake, &c. As to the state you are in respecting men, provisions, &c. we have advices from Connecticut and New York, that ample preparation is making, with the greatest dispatch, in those two Colonies, from whence you may depend on being seasonably supplied. They are sorry to meet with repeated requests from you, that some Gentleman be sent to succeed you in command; they assure you, that they place the greatest confidence in your fidelity, knowledge, courage and good conduct, and they desire that you at present dismiss the thoughts of quitting your important command at Ticonderoga, Crown Point, Lake Champlain, &c.; and you are hereby requested to continue your command over the forces raised by this Colony, posted at those several places, at least until the Colony of New York or Connecticut shall take on them the maintaining and commanding the same agreeable to an order of the Continental Congress.

To Colonel Benedict Arnold, Ticonderoga

P.S. We have just received the intelligence by a Letter from Governour [Jonathan] Trumbull, that the General Assembly have ordered a thousand men to march immediately to re-enforce the Army now at Crown Point, Ticonderoga, &c., as also five hundred pounds of powder, &c. The Congress further advise that in case your present necessity requires it, you make use of the one hundred and sixty Pounds you found on board the Sloop, for the service of this Colony, you accounting for the same to this or some other Congress, or House of Representatives of this Colony; and they hereby assure you that this Colony will repay it whenever it shall be ordered by the Continental Congress, and that you also complete the raising the number of four hundred men, in the pay of this Colony, if you judge it necessary.

To the House of Assembly of Connecticut

Gentlemen, We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 27th ultimo. We fully concur in opinion with you, that maintaining a post at Ticonderoga or Crown Point, is of the utmost importance; therefore take particular satisfaction that you have on this subject so early and repeatedly expressed your minds to the Continental Congress. By private intelligence of the 28th ultimo, sent to Captain Joseph Trumbull, we are informed that the Provincial Congress of New York do not understand the resolve of the Continental Congress, concerning said fortresses, to extend so far as to wholly dismantle them, but so far only as to supply any fortification that may be built at the south end of Lake George; which resolve, in this sense of it, they are with dispatch executing. Therefore, in our present distressing situation, we

have postponed sending further assistance to Captain Arnold, especially since New York have not requested it.

To the Hon. William Williams, Speaker of the House of Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut.

To the Provincial Congress of New-Hampshire

Gentlemen, We send you enclosed a copy of a letter from Colonel Arnold, commander of the Troops at Ticonderoga and Crown Point, together with a copy of a letter from the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the Colony of Connecticut, by which you will be acquainted with the present situation of those fortresses, and the measures necessary to be taken for securing and defending so valuable acquisitions. You will doubtless agree with us in sentiment, that it is a matter of the greatest importance that those places remain in our possession, in order to secure our frontiers from the depredations of our enemies, if they should attempt to attack it from that quarter, of which there appears to be great danger.

It was the agreement of this Colony, that four hundred men, and one hundred pounds in money, should be raised for the reduction of the place; and it is our determination to contribute our full proportion toward securing the acquisition. By the letter from the Speaker of the House of Representatives for Connecticut you will find that that Colony have voted to send immediately to their assistance four companies, and five hundred pounds weight of powder, and we suppose that the troops are upon the march there. And we most earnestly request that you would contribute your endeavours likewise for the speedy and effective security of the aforementioned places, which, considering the importance of the affair, and the ready disposition which you have discovered for the defence of the common cause, leaves us no room to doubt of your compliance therewith.

To the Provincial Congress of New Hampshire.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1382, 1383, from Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Preston*, CAPTAIN JOHN ROBINSON
COMMANDING ¹

June 1775

Remarks Boston Harbour

Thursday 1

Employd securing our stores. The Rebels set fire to our store houses on Noddles Island

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[*Preston*, Boston] June 1 [1775]

The General was now in expectation of the *Nancy* transport with Cloathing and Ordnance Stores, and, as she did not appear, various reports were spread of the Rebels intending to seize her: and the *Senegal*, Capt. [William] Dudingstone arriving from England, the Admiral immediately ordered her to Sea again to

cruise from Cape Ann to Cape Cod for this transport. And the *Cerberus* went into Nantasket Road in the *Mercury's* Room.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 103, 104, MassHS Transcript.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] June 1st. [1775]

The *Cerberus* this morning sailed down to Nantasket Road, to be in readiness to sail in a few days. Some of the idle Fools frequently fire small Arms at the *Glasgow*, and at our Camp; us they never reach, but they sometimes stick a Ball in the Ship, who never returns it tho' she has it in her power to drive 'em to the D --- l.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 53.

J. SPARDING TO THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

The Memorial of John Sparding, living at Ticonderoga Landing, the north end of Lake George, June 1, 1775 Humbly sheweth:

That your Memorialist has, for upwards of six years past, been at a great expence in providing boats and carriages for the ease and convenience of persons traveling this way with their baggage and effects, over the lake and carrying place, at an easy rate; likewise providing batteaus on Lake Champlain, for the convenience of gentlemen and others traveling to Canada. The unhappy differences now subsisting between the Colonies and the Mother Country, have put a stop to any business your Memorialist was formerly engaged in. Your Memorialist has, ever since the tenth day of May, (the day on which the fort at Ticonderoga was taken,) assisted with his boats, men, &c. in transporting the troops, with their baggage and provisions, over Lake George and the carrying place, upon no other security than a verbal agreement with Colonel [Benedict] Arnold, for twenty shillings currency, per day, for a perryaugre capable of crossing the lake with seventy men, besides a quantity of provision, and a batteau for carrying expresses; and when there was not a sufficient loading for the perryaugre, to have the privilege of conveying such private property as might offer, of which your Memorialist is at present deprived; your Memorialist having likewise carted the greatest part of the baggage and provisions over the carrying place, to whole amount of which, to this day, is near seventeen Pounds. And the gentlemen appointed here have this day intimated to your Memorialist that his teams are not to be any more employed, they having brought teams over the lake for said service; your Memorialist, there, trusting in the known justice and humanity of the gentlemen in New York, who scorn to let any individual suffer, which must inevitably be the case of your Memorialist, unless your goodness prevents it, by confirming the agreement made by Colonel Arnold; your Memorialist therefore humbly hopes, as he had done his utmost endeavour for the good of the common cause, and is disabled at present from providing for his family, you will take the same into consideration. And your Memorialist will ever pray.

J. Sparding

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, II.

BARNABAS DEANE TO SILAS DEANE ¹

[Extract]

Albany, 1st June, 1775

I returned here last evening from Crownpoint, which place I left on Monday last [May 29] . . . Col [Benedict] Arnold was very busy in fixing the Sloop [*Enterprise*] and Schooner [*Liberty*] in the best manner for guarding the Lake. He has mounted in the Sloop six six-pounders and fourteen swivels, and in the Schooner four four-pounders and eight swivels, and is fixing swivels in two Perriaugers. He destroyed all the water craft at St. Johns that could not be brot off.

1. *Connecticut Historical Society Collections*, II, 246, 247.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Jovis, 9 ho., June 1, 1775.

A draught of a letter to the sub-committee of the city and county of Albany, was read, and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit :

In Provincial Congress, at New York, June 1st, 1775.

Gentlemen – Agreeable to the minute of the Grand Congress, we (being unable as you know to garrison Ticonderoga, Crown Point, or Fort George,) made application to the eastern Colonies for their assistance. In our letter to Governor [Jonathan] Trumbull, of Connecticut, we desire him to order troops on that service, and inform him that it is our intention that the commanding officer of the troops should be the commander of the forts by them garrisoned. We moreover requested him, to give orders to such officer to use great diligence to prevent any inroads into Canady. This morning we have received his Honor's and the Assembly's answer, of which we send you a copy.

You will find that one thousand men are already on their way to the frontier country; their commanding officer is Colo. [Benjamin] Hinman, wherefore we beg you will inform all persons in that part of the country of his appointment.

We have at present no powder in this city, nor can we possibly tell you when we shall have any. The reason of this uncertainty is, that the British Ministry have taken measures to prevent supplies of powder from coming to America, from any part of Europe. But you will easily see that though such attempts may delay, they cannot prevent us from getting some. Should the Indians again mention their uneasiness on the subject of powder, it will, as we conceive, be proper to mention to them the endeavours of Great Britain to hinder both them and us from obtaining any.

We have received your despatches of the 26th ulto., and already forwarded copies to the Grand Congress.

We are, Gentlemen, [&c.]

To Doctr. Samuel Stringer, Chairman of the Sub-Committee of the City and County of Albany.

Ordered, That a copy of the said letter to the sub-committee at Albany be engrossed, signed by the President, and transmitted with all convenient despatch.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Con^{rs}*, I, 25.

CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N. TO CADWALLADER COLDEN, LIEUT-GOVERNOR
OF NEW YORK ¹

Sir

Asia East River June 1st 1775

The Packet arrived last Evening but too late to give me an Opportunity of forwarding your Letters sooner. It was my Intention to have sent the *Kings Fisher* to Boston with the Dispatches that have been brought by the Mail; but having (since I had the Honor of seeing you) received Information that some Vessels are on the Coast, laden with Arms and Ammunition; and as I have it not in my Power to send any other Vessel either to Cruize for them, or prevent their landing their Cargoes; I think it absolutely Necessary to employ Capt. [James] Montague on so material a service. I shall therefore fit out the Schooner that has been sent here by Genl [Thomas] Gage, and arm her in such a Manner as will secure Her from all Insults. She will be ready by the Time that I can have your Answer to this, and will sail immediately after, unless You should have Occasion to detain her any while Longer. By the News the Packet brings we may very shortly expect four Regiments of seventy Men a Company with a General officer at New York, such a respectable Force will I hope change the Face of affairs.

I have the Honor to be with great Respect Sir [&c.]

Geo Vandeput

1. *Colden Papers*, VII, 298, 299.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, June 1, 1775

The committee appointed to consider ways and means to supply these colonies with ammunition and military stores, brought in their report, which was read, and referred to the committee of the whole.

Upon Motion, *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Government of Connecticut, or the general of the forces of that colony, to appoint Commissaries to receive at Albany and forward the supplies of provisions, for the forces on Lake Champlain, from the provincial Convention of New York, and that the sd Convention use their utmost endeavours in facilitating and aiding the transportation thereof, from thence to where the sd Commissaries may direct.

As this Congress has nothing more in view than the defence of these colonies, *Resolved*, That no expedition or incursion ought to be undertaken or made, by any colony, or body of colonists, against or into Canada; and that this Resolve be immediately transmitted to the commander of the forces at Ticonderoga.

Ordered, That the above resolve be translated into the french Language and transmitted, with the letter, to the inhabitants of Canada – also,

Ordered, That the president transmit a copy of the above to New York, and the other colonies bordering on Canada.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 74, 75.

TRAUGOTT BAGGE'S NARRATIVE OF EVENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA PRIOR TO GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN'S DEPARTURE FROM NEWBERN ON JUNE 1, 1775 ¹

With the beginning of 1775 war began in earnest, and first in the northern Colonies. Great Britain declared certain American ports closed. All the Colo-

nies resented this. In many harbors no British ships were allowed to enter; in others they were permitted to come in and take a load of American products back to England, but were obliged to throw the cargoes from England overboard, and under no pretext were allowed to land them, – for instance in March an English ship reached Charlestown, and its cargo of salt, potatoes and brick was thrown into the water, not by a mob but by the sailors, to make room for the return load of rice. This wanton waste of salt cost the colonists dearly enough, for during the war many were for a long time without salt, and had to substitute hickory ash, which made them first hoarse and then speechless; others paid twelve to fifteen times as much for salt as before the war, and then had to be content with a very bad quality. The situation was somewhat helped by the salt works which were built on the seacoast in all the Colonies, those in North Carolina being not inconsiderable.

In Feb. 1775, our stores² secured its last regular shipment of wares from Charlestown, though already then many things were scarce and increasing in price. At about the same time the Assembly called by Governor Josiah Martin met in New Bern,³ the last to be held under royal authority. They had not been in session long when they entirely broke with the Governor, refused obedience to him and to the King, and resolved that for the rest of their session they would not be an Assembly under the Crown but a Convention to consider and provide for the best interests of North Carolina, in unison with the other Provinces.⁴ They remained together three more days, expelled a McNight from the Convention because he spoke in favor of the royal government, recommended that each County should form a Committee to act in place of the Justices and Courts, and appointed a time for their next meeting. Gov. Martin was no longer safe, and narrowly escaped arrest, but he rode openly through the country from Newbern to Wilmington and down the Cape Fear River to Fort Johnston, where several English war ships lay at anchor.⁵ He went on board one of them, and from there sent out several proclamations, condemning the Committees, Conventions, and leaders of the land, but they only laughed at him, and concerted together here and there for their further methods of procedure, becoming the more ardent when the news was received that in April the British had met the colonists in New England and blood had been shed.

1. Fries, ed., *Moravians in North Carolina*, II, 846. Bagge arrived in Wachovia, N.C. in 1768. He probably prepared this narrative in 1783 under the title "Sketch Notes on the Events during the Revolutionary War which Bear on Wachovia to the End of 1779." Early in the war, Bagge, deciding that the struggle was of great international significance, collected much material from papers filed with his manuscripts.
2. As "an able Merchant," Bagge took charge of the city store and Wachovia's books and accounts.
3. The North Carolina Assembly met on April 4, 1775.
4. The Assembly, as Bagge relates, did not resolve itself from an Assembly into a Convention. The Convention, composed of "Delegates of the Inhabitants of this Province," on April 5, 1775, elected William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, and Richard Caswell delegates to the Continental Congress, and the Assembly, on April 7, approved of the choice made by the Convention.
5. Governor Martin arrived at Fort Johnston on June 2, 1775.

IN PROVINCIAL CONGRESS,

NEW-YORK, June 2, 1775.

Friends and Countrymen,

THE parent of the universe, hath divided this earth amongst the children of men, and drawn out the line of their habitations.—This great God, having ordained that all our joys and sorrows here below, should proceed from the effect of human actions, upon human beings; our situation has drawn together, this great bond of mutual dependence, and enabled us to deal out injuries and kindnesses to each other. We consider you as our friends, and we feel for you, the affection of brothers.

The great question between Britain and her Colonies, is, whether they are subjects, or whether they are slaves.

The rights delivered down to us, from our forefathers, the venerable laws of our country, have subjected our own property, to our own disposal. Nor hath any earthly power, a right to take it away. Mankind ought to be governed by the dictates of justice, and not by the hand of oppression. The peaceable enjoyment of what we yet call our own, and that liberty, which confers on every man, the right of adoring his God in the manner, which he humbly thinks most agreeable to the divine nature; these are the objects of all our labours, and of all our cares.

Ministerial tyranny hath endeavoured, throughout all these Colonies, to rend from us the dearest rights of humanity. And in the defence of those rights, some persons have taken certain forts in this Colony, which are near your frontiers.

We have heard that others have made an attack upon the post of St. John's; an attempt without our council or participation: And altho' we have taken measures for the defence of our own fortresses, yet our only intention, is, to prevent any hostile incursions upon us, by the troops in your province.

Confident that the enemies of our King and his people, will take every opportunity to excite jealousies and discord amongst us, we beseech you not to be imposed on by their artifices, but call to your remembrance, the complicated horrors of a barbarous war, avoid those measures, which must plunge us both into distress, and instead of consenting to become miserable slaves, generously dare to participate with your fellow subjects, in the sweets of that security, which is the glorious lot of freedom.

We are, with sincere affection,

To the inhabitants of the }
province of Quebec.

Your brethren and friends,

P. V. B. LIVINGSTON, *Président.*

Le CONGRES de la Colonie de la Nouvelle-York assemblée, le 2 de Juin, 1775.

Nos très chers Frères & Compatriotes,

IL a plu au créateur de l'univers de partager ce monde entre différentes sociétés, et d'en régler les bornes. Sa Providence divine ayant ordonné qu'ici bas, notre bonheur et nos calamités seraient le résultat de la conduite que nous tiendrions les uns à l'égard des autres, notre voisinage a resserré les liens de cette dépendance universelle; et elle nous a fourni les moyens de rendre les bienfaits, et de repousser les injures. Soyez persuadés que nous vous regardons comme nos amis, et que nous vous aimons comme nos frères:

Dans la dispute qui s'est élevée entre la Grande-Bretagne et ses colonies, il s'agit de décider si nous devons être sujets ou esclaves. Les droits que nous avons hérités de nos ancêtres, et les loix de notre patrie, nous rendent maîtres absolus des biens que nous possédons: Il n'y a personne sur la terre qui puisse nous les enlever légitimement. C'est par l'équité, et non par la violence, que les hommes doivent être gouvernés: La liberté qui nous assure, et le droit de rendre à l'être suprême le culte que nous croyons lui être le plus agréable, et la jouissance paisible de nos biens, est le seul objet de tous nos soins et de tous nos travaux.

La tyrannie du ministre travaille à détruire dans les colonies de la Grande-Bretagne, les droits les plus précieux de l'humanité. Pour revendiquer ces droits, quelques personnes s'y sont comparées des forts situés près de vos frontières.

Nous avons entendu dire qu'on avait eu l'imprudence d'attaquer le poste de St. Jean. Soyez persuadés que ceux qui veillent à la défense de la liberté des colo-

Appeal from the Provincial Congress of New York for support from the inhabitants of Quebec, with an extract from the French rendering of the same.

2 June

MATTHEW THORNTON, PRESIDENT OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO NEW HAMPSHIRE DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

[Exeter, June 2, 1775 ²]

. . . Our Circumstances appear daily more & more alarming. The men-of-war stop all provision vessels coming into our Harbour and send them to Boston, & the Captain of the *Scarboro'* has shown his orders to a Committee who waited on him, to stop all provision, salt, molasses, &c. coming to us, since which several Hundred arm'd men in the day time went down to the entrance of our Harbour in open sight of the men-of-War & Bro't from a Point of land there a number of large Cannon & deposited them at Portsmouth for the present where preparations are making for mounting and fitting them for action. A number of men are now making a Battery on Kittery Point and if we had a sufficy of Ammunition shou'd hope to be able to command our Harbour. We would desire you, if any arms or Gun Powder can be procured in the Southern Governments to procure them if possible on such Terms as you can make, with which the Colony will endeavor punctually to comply.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 500.

2. The date is established by an enclosed document dated June 2, for which this was, in part, a covering letter.

New Hampshire Gazette, FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1775

Portsmouth, June 2.

Last Tuesday [30 May] about 30 or 40 Men from on Board the *Scarborough* Man of War, now in this Harbour, came on Shore at Fort William and Mary, and have tore down great Part of the Breast Work of said Fort, and did other damage.

The Day before this Attempt, the *Scarborough* took two Provision Vessels, loaded with Corn, Pork, Flower, Rye, &c. coming in from Long-Island; which were for the Relief of this Place; as the inhabitants are in great Want of Provisions; and notwithstanding the most prudent Application of the principal Gentlemen of this Town, the Captain refused to release them. O shocking situation.

Upon this Refusal it was apprehended the most violent Outrages and Tumults of the People would immediately follow this Detention of their Provisions, the Consequences of which would be most probably very fatal to his Majesty's Subjects, by bringing into the most imminent Danger, the Lives and Properties of his said subjects, which ought by all Means to be prevented if possible.

Upon this unwarrantable Transaction, the Inhabitants of this and the Neighbouring Towns, were greatly alarmed; and the next Morning between 5 and 600 Men, in arms, went down to the Battery called Jerry's Point, and brought off Eight Cannon, 24 and 32 Pounders, being the whole that were there, weighing 4,800 pounds each, and brought them up to this Town. While they were taking off the above Cannon, the *Canceaux*, with a Tender, set sail with the two Provi-

sion Vessels for Boston. The next day the Town was full of Men from the Country in Arms.

This uncommon Exertion of arbitrary Power immediately alarmed the Inhabitants, and the Committee of Safety having met, a Memorial was, by their Approbation presented to the Governor and Council, who took every prudent Method in their Power to pacify the People, and to obtain a Release of the Captures. His Excellency repaired on board the *Scarborough*, and informed the Captain that the Provisions were the Property of some of the Inhabitants, who had before contracted for the same, but the only Answer he could obtain was "that Admiral Graves and the General had forwarded Orders to take every provision vessel that should be met with, on every Station, and to send them forthwith to Boston for the Supply of the Army and Navy." Captain Barclay, the Commander of the *Scarborough*, informed two of the Committee at Fort William and Mary, that his Orders were such that he must even take all Vessels with Salt or Molasses, they being a Species of Provision, and send them to Boston.

"REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER" ¹

June 1775 at 3 A M a party of men from the shore fired into our guard
Friday 2d boat, & wounded one man & several shott struck the boat; Do
fired 7 shott (with Grape) at the Rebels, empd in makeing of board-
ing Nettings,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Canceaux*, HENRY MOWAT, COMMANDING ¹

June 1775 Moored in Piscataqua River
Friday 2 about 3 A M as the *Scarborough's* Boat and ours were rowing Guard,
the former was fired on from the western part of Great Island, one
Man was wounded and several Shot went thro' the Boat - 1/2 past
the *Scarborough* fired three Guns over Newcastle Town.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4136.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Friday, June 2, 1775

Ordered, That Mr. [Walter] Spooner, Colonel [Ezra] Richmond, and Colonel [Nathaniel] Dwight, be a Committee to take into consideration the expence Captain [Elisha] Phelps has been at in supplying the Massachusetts Forces at Ticonderoga, and report.

Ordered, That Deacon [Nathaniel] Bayley, Honourable Joseph Gerrish, Esq., Josiah Johnson, Esq., Mr. John Hale, Honourable William Sever, Esq., Colonel Joseph Otis, Honourable Jerethmial Bowers, Col. [Edward] Cutt, Captain Stephen Maynard, Colonel [Samuel] Thompson, Mr. Joseph North, and Timothy Edwards, Esq., be a Committee to take into consideration and circumstances of the seapert Towns and Islands in this Colony, which are exposed to the incursions and ravages of the enemy; and in particular to consider the Letter of Mr. Stephen Nye to Colonel [Nathaniel] Freeman, the Petition from the Town of Kittery, the

Resolve of the last Congress in relation to the invasion of the enemy on our sea-coasts,&c., and a Petition from some inhabitants of Deer Island, and sit forthwith, and report as soon as may be.

Afternoon

The Committee appointed to consider the expences Mr. Phelps had been at in supplying the Massachusetts Forces at Ticonderoga, exhibited an account which they looked upon was not supported by any vouchers, and therefore submitted the matter to Congress.

Ordered, That the consideration of the same be put off to to-morrow morning.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Preston, Boston] 2d [June, 1775]

The *Lively* came in from Marblehead and anchored between Charles Town and Boston by the Admiral's Order, and her Commander received particular instructions for his Guidance on that Station.²

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 104, MassHS Transcript.

2. See orders to Lieutenant Alexander Graeme, June 2, 1775.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 2d. [June, 1775]

The *Lively* and *Nautilus* came up, the *Lively* took the place of the *Somerset*, who went further down there not being water enough. – A Prize was lately taken of a Ship loaded with flour, this will make up for what was lost in the fire.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 54.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER GRAEME, COMMANDING H.M.S. *Lively* ¹

Orders and regulations to be punctually observed by his Majesty's Ships stationed at Charles Town Ferry. Vizt

The Ferry Boats are to pass between Sunrise and Sunset and at no other time.

An Officer is appointed by the General to regulate the passing of People with their Effects from Boston to Charles Town.

So long as that Officer remains at the Ferry, the Boats are to pass; When he leaves the Place at any time of the day, the Boats to remain on Boston Side until he returns.

At Sunset the Ferry Boats are to be brought alongside the *Lively*, there to remain until Sunrise the time for their Working.

When the publick Service requires any body to pass with Letters or Messages, the Ships Boat is always to do it, but no Man belonging to the Ship is to be allowed to put his foot out of the Boat on Charles Town Side.

A Midshipman always to go in the Boat on that Duty, and the Boat is never to wait upon Charles Town Side upon any Account.

A Boat to row guard as high up as the *Glasgow* and often along the Wharfs of Charles Town every night to observe if anything is stirring there.

No Boat to be upon the River without a pass except those belonging to the King.

A very good Look out is to be constantly Kept to observe the Motions of the Rebels in and near Charles Town and on the Hills allround.

The Admiral to have constantly and expeditiously every proper Information.

At Night the Ships to be Kept fit in all respects for Action with half the Ships Company at least under Arms till Day light; between that time and seven o'Clock to give them all as much rest as possible.

Given under my Hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston* at Boston the 2d June 1775

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 435–437, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE, COMMANDING ¹

June 1775 High land of Plymouth S W.

Fryday 2 at 8 [A M] Weighd and Came to Sail Saluted Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves with 13 Guns at noon – Came too in Boston Harbour abrest the Town.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*" ¹

June 1775 Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour

Friday 2 A M sent 2 seamen in the Ship *Peggy* with Provisions to Boston,²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

2. See *Newport Mercury*, May 29, 1775.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen

New London, June 2d 1775

The bearer Mr. Jno Hale apply'd to me for a Quantity of Powder for the use of your Province, but am sorry to inform you, that article is very scarce in this Colony and not to be purchas'd; what I have imported is on Government accts and by letters from N. York that I have lately Received, am very certain its not to be had in that Province, Neither in Rhode Island.

I expect a large Quantity, but from its not arriving, I begin to suspect, that either the Crusers in the Channel or the Negotiation between Great Britain & the States has prevented it. If I should have a larger Quantity arive than should be wanted in this Colony on Government acct I will give you the offer of it, but att the same time I would Recomend to you, that you make no Dependance on having from me.

I am &c.

Nath^l Shaw, jun^r

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 507.

ROBERT AND JOHN MURRAY TO PETER VAN BRUGH LIVINGSTON, PRESIDENT OF
THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Sir Herewith you have a memorial to the [Provincial] Congress now Assembled together, with a Copy of the Papers Laid before the Continental Congress. We should take it as a favor if you would lay the whole before the Gentlemen as soon as possible. Your Compliance will much oblige [&c].

Rob^t & John Murray

New York 2d June 1775.

1. *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts*, N.Y., I, 92.

ROBERT AND JOHN MURRAY TO THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen: The annexed papers are Copies of what we laid before the Honble Continental Congress in consideration of which they came to the following Resolutions

[Inserted is extract from the Journal of the Continental Congress
for May 27, 1775.]

From the foregoing it appears that to procure Restoration to Public favor, we have no Tribunal but yours to appeal to The annexed papers exhibit a full State of our Case which we humbly Submit to your Consideration, not doubting but that in your Wisdom you will afford us such Relief as will be consistent with Humanity and the public good.

June 2nd 1775

Robert Murray John Murray

1. *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts*, N.Y., I, 92.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Veneris, 9 ho., A.M., June 2nd, 1775.

The Committee appointed to view the ground near King's Bridge, delivered in their Report, and a map or Draft of the place thereto annexed.

Ordered, That the said report lay on the table for the perusal and infmation of members.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, June 2, 1775

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That no bill of Exchange, draught, or order of any officer in the army or navy, their agents or contractors, be received, or negotiated, or any money supplied to them by any person in America.

That no provisions or necessaries of any kind be furnished or supplied to, or for the use of the British Army or navy, in the colony of Massachusetts bay; and

That no vessel employed in transporting British troops to America, or from one part of North America to another, or warlike stores or provisions for said troops,

be freighted or furnished with provisions or any Necessaries, until further orders from this Congress.

Ordered, That the above resolves be immediately published.²

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 78.

2. The resolutions were printed in the *Pennsylvania Packet*, June 5, 1775.

THOMAS JOHNSON, JR., A MARYLAND DELEGATE IN THE CONTINENTAL
CONGRESS, TO SAMUEL PURVIANCE¹

[Extract]

Phila 2d June 1775.

I am sorry to tell you the Continent is not now so well furnished with powder as I expected much less – I wish and Intreat you if there's any way of getting powder & Saltpetre into your place – that you lay a Scheme for it before it is quite too late I imagine that powder may be got from the Cape – or any of the foreign Islands or ports notwithstanding the contrary promises of the French and Dutch. Sulphur is wanted in but small proportions and by what I learn enough may be had

1. Misc. Collection, HUL.

South Carolina Gazette, TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1775

[Newbern,] June 2 [1775]

On Monday last [May 29] the lady and family of his Excellency the Governor [Josiah Martin] embarked on board a vessel here for New-York; and the same day his Excellency set out by land for Cape Fear.

CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY, R.N. TO CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH, R.N.¹

Dear Sir

[H.M.S. *Cruizer*, Cape Fear River, June 2, 1775]²

Do be so obliging to let me know if you have any News from the Northward as I boarded a sloop to Day who came from Charles Town before that from Rhode Island he told me Capt. [John] Lindsey was there from the disposition of the People here I am laying off Fort Johnston where the Governor is who has sent his Family to New York

I am Dr Sir. [&c.]

Fran Parry

P.S. If the Frigate or Sloop that bring Ld William [Campbell] is to go to the Northward or England Governor [Josiah] Martin would be obliged to you to order her to call here.

[Addressed]

Captn Thornborough of his Majesty's Ship *Tamar* Charlestown

[Endorsed] A true Copy certified by Wm Hy Drayton, Chairman³

1. Misc. Collection, HL.

2. The date is assumed from the fact that Governor Martin came off from Fort Johnston that day, and was on board the *Cruizer*. The *Cruizer* had moved off the fort on May 27, 1775.

3. Enclosed in the South Carolina Committee of Intelligence to the Committee of Wilmington, June 6, 1775.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Cruizer*, FRANCIS PARRY, COMMANDING ¹

June 1775

Moord off the Fort [Johnston]

Thursday 2nd Sent a boat with an Officer who ret'd with Govr [Josiah] Martin, saluted him on coming on board & going on shore with 13 guns, shifted our berth nearer the Fort,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

3 JuneCOMMITTEE OF TOWN OF ARUNDEL TO MASSACHUSETTS CONGRESS ¹

To the honourable Congress of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England now sitting. – the Committee of the Town of Arundel in said Province sendeth Greeting –

Whereas, a Sloop [the *Polly*], belonging to the Town of Arundel about three Weeks ago, sail'd out of this Harbour, and disposed of her Cargo at Plymouth, and having received her Effects, upon her Return, was seiz'd and carried into Boston, and there detained by general Gage for sometime, and her Effects taken into his Custody for which he paid near the prime Cost: – After which, a Proposal was made to the Master of said Sloop, by the Officers of the Troops, to enlist into the Government Service, with a Promise of a large Reward for his Service therein:

The Master, being now under Confinement, and knowing no Means of obtaining his Liberty, now thought this Proposal the only way to make his Escape, and obtain his Liberty, and therefore comply'd with the same, and accordingly received Orders to sail immediately for Annapolis, to bring a Quantity of Hay, and other Stores for the Use of the Troops in Boston. A number of the king's Arms with Cartridges, were put on Board, and two Young Men one named Josiah Jones, and the other—Jona Hicks were put on board, one, or both of which; was Super Cargo in the Above Employment, with a Packet of Letters, Orders & other Papers.

The Master then, being prepar'd to go out, sail'd directly for this Port and arrived in this Harbour the second instant, with the Persons Letters &c., as above mentioned; who were immediately carried before the Committee of this Town, and after Examination of both, it was agreed by the Committee, and they have accordingly sent the Persons and Papers under Guard to this honle Provincial Congress now sitting for Examination to be dealt with as they in their United Wisdom shall think just, the Master and Mate of said Sloop we have hereby sent by whom an account of the Whole Affair will be given

Arundel 3d June 1775

Benjⁿ DurrellTho^s Wiswall

John Hovey

James Burnham

Jona^t Stone

Committee of Town of Arundel

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 116–118.

GOVERNOR JOHN WENTWORTH TO CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N. ¹

(Copy)

Portsmouth 3d. June 1775.

Sir The Select Men and Freeholders of this Town have this Morning represented to me that the Inhabitants are extremely distress'd by sundry of their Fishermen

being impress'd Onboard his Majesty's Ship *Scarborough* under your Command whereby the sustenance of the People is greatly reduced.

These Gentlemen on behalf of the Town, declare their universal disapprobation of the firing On your Boat, and that the Act is held in great detestation by them – That they are desirous to have the Perpetrators, when discovered brought to condign Punishment; They further declare that no obstruction is meant or in any degree intended towards the free passing and repassing of your Boats, which they consider as safely to be done, and will most earnestly and sincerely exert themselves to secure, confidently relying that there will be no danger therein. They also express an ardent desire that the admission of Provision Vessels into this Port for the necessary Supply of this and the adjacent Towns, now in great want, might enable them to afford the usual Supply of fresh Provisions to his Majesty's Ships in this Harbour.

These things being by them solemnly and seriously resolved, I beg leave to represent to You that a dismissal of the Fisherman aforesaid may have a happy tendency towards a restoration of harmony and be a very powerful Evidence that his Majesty's Servants are ever ready and disposed to lead by Acts of kindness to the re-establishment of Law and Peace among his Subjects, notwithstanding any errors of Individuals might justify the exertion of their power; In this view I hope it may be consistent with your duty to comply with the united desire of this People in the case aforementioned, which I verily believe will have a happy Effect on the Minds of the People in general, and be useful therein to the Public Service.

Sign'd J. Wentworth

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Saturday, June 3, 1775

The Committee appointed to consider the situation and circumstances of the Islands and Sea Coasts, reported,

1st. That the Petition of Colonel [William] Lithgow be committed to the Committee of Supplies.

2d. A Resolve on the subject of Mr. [Stephen] Nye's Letter, which is as follows:

Whereas the forces under the command of General [Thomas] Gage are frequently plundering and making depredations on the islands and sea-coasts of this Province, particularly on the Island of Naushan, and others adjacent, whereby not only individuals, but the publick are much injured, and our enemies strengthened:

Resolved, therefore, That it be recommended to all those persons occupying the islands or sea-coasts aforesaid, which are exposed to be ravaged or plundered, and cannot be defended by the inhabitants, to remove all their Hay, Cattle, Horses, Sheep, &c., so far into the country, or otherwise dispose of them, that they may be out of the way of our implacable enemies; also, that it be recommended to the Committee of Correspondence in each Town and District, or Selectman, (where no such Committee is chosen) to take effectual care that this Resolve be immediately, strictly and fully executed, and that all persons who refuse to comply

herewith be viewed as disposed to furnish our enemies with such unremoved Hay and Stock, and shall therefore be held as inimical to the liberty and rights of this Country.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II 1386, from Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

JOSHUA DAVIS TO THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLIES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Honerble Gentelmen I Recd. your Letter of the 1 Instant Am well Satisfyd with my fattegueing Cruse as I seam to Have your Approbation I Now have the Boats ariving for Kingstown with part of the flower am in much Confution giting stores & Providing for Near 230 Men so ples to Excuse my Errors in Riting have got 61 Boats up with the flower have 26 Left With 300 bb of flower in yarmoth have Bin obligd to Draw 130 Men From the Provential Troopes which I Expect will Have More Wages then our one Men which are Inlisted In the Arme[y] as I have No abselute orders I think to take a Detachment of our one Arme[y] & procede Amedatly to yarmoth after the Remaining part of the flower & Boats as thare is so great Numr of Peopel in that plaice our Sculking inemy may Burn the Store or Some other Mischeif altho I have Dun all was in My power to prevent it & at my Return will take the Moast prudent way in my pwer to Convoy Boath flower & Boats to such plaice Or plaices as shall Be thoght Best By my Commanders If that ar wanted before ples to Direct a line to the Commanding officer at plymoth in that way you think proper if thay are Not much Wanted I Think Thare Might Bee a Saving to Move it farther With our one troops toward the Camp as our Enemys are much at Present Intimated If I have good weathe[r] I hope To git all the Boats & flower to Kingstown & Plymoth By this Day weak. Am Now Much Wanted Cannot Rite Peticular Must Conclude Am My Cuntrey & your Vary Hume Servent

Joshua Davis

Kingstown June 3d 1775

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 315.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N.¹

Sir,

Preston Boston 3d June 1775

Mr Frazer delivered me your Letters May 30 and 31st and June 1 with the Copy of an Extract from the Minutes of the Council of New Hampshire. There is an absolute necessity for cutting off all Supplies of Provisions from the Rebels, it is the only way we can distress them at present. The discretionary Power lodged with you of permitting Supplies sufficient for the peaceable Inhabitants of the Town of Portsmouth will I hope convince the refractory People that proceeding in Hostilities with you will not only totally deprive them of Provisions but of every Indulgence and Protection a dutiful and quiet behaviour would certainly ensure to them. I would not have you begin a war upon any Account, but if you are attacked you must defend the Kings Ships and do your utmost to destroy the Enemy, Pirate or Rebel. You will naturally be upon your Guard, and if the Rebels actually bring Cannon against you which cannot be seized or dismounted,

and it becomes no longer safe to remain in the River, you must then leave it and by cruising in the Neighbourhood endeavour to execute the several Orders you are under until you can receive my further Directions. Send the *Canceaux* to Halifax as soon as you can, and not to Falmouth; and deliver Lieutt [Henry] Mowat the inclosed Letters for the Officers of the Yard, and I think you had better Keep the *Spinckes* [*Sphynx*] with you until Mowat's return to Boston. I am &c.

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, MassHS Transcript.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1775

Providence, June 3.

A Number of the inhabitants of Plymouth, we learn, went a few Days since to Nantucket in Whaleboats, and took from thence 800 barrels of Flour, the Property of a Merchant at Dartmouth, and which it is supposed was intended to be smuggled into Boston, for supplying the ministerial Army.¹

1. See Joshua Davis's letter of this date.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] June. 3. [1775]

This afternoon a great Commotion happened in this Town, the occasion of which was this. Several Cargoes of Flour had been seized by the Men o' War. Also one Mr. [George] Rome had been employed by the Men o' War to buy up several of the Cargoes. A day or two ago Capt. Wightman of this To[wn] arrived from Philada with Flour,² of which he had imprudently sold about 80 Bbs. to Mr. Rome.

The Patience of the p[eo]ple was exhausted. A Body arose and demanded the Flour. Rome at first promised to deliver it up, but Capt. [James] Wallace soon landed about 100 Marines and Sailors armed and stationed them about Romes House & Stores to protect him. Upon which the p[eo]ple beat to Arms, and about 90 Resolute Men appeared under Arms. There was the utmost Danger of Hostilities & a bloody Scene. However all was at length settled – the Flour delivered up and instantly removed and Lodged in the Grainery – the Marines retired on board. – And so the Tumult subsided.

1. Stiles, II, 89, 90, LC.

2. Captain V. Wightman, in the sloop *Betsey*, cleared the port of Philadelphia May 29, 1775, *Pennsylvania Packet*, May 29, 1775.

Connecticut Gazette, SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1775

New-London, June 2.

A Gentleman who was in Boston at the Time of the above Engagement,¹ and whose Intelligence may be relied on, informs, that Ten Regulars were buried there last Sunday Evening [May 28], who were killed in the Engagement. 'Tis said they had about 30 killed, in the whole, and a greater Number wounded. – Seven Horses and several Cattle were also killed.

During the Action the Regulars were several Times reinforced: They amounted to about 1000 Men, and the Provincials to 700; the latter were under the command of Gen. [Israel] Putnam. It is supposed our People had a fascine Battery, made with bundles of press'd Hay, by their meeting with so little Damage.

When the Schooner ² blew up, her Sails fell into the Water, by which Means they were saved by our People, as also her Rigging, &c.

She was the largest Schooner in the King's Service, on the North-American Station.

The Stock on the Island belonged to the Inhabitants of Boston, and our Attempt to take off the same was supposed to be in Consequence of the Owners Desire.

1. The battle on Noddles Island, May 27, 1775.

2. His Majesty's Armed Schooner *Diana*.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Saturnii, 9 ho. A.M., June 3d, 1775.

The Congress ordered the stores, men and things (hereafter mentioned) to be provided by Peter T. Curtenius ² and forwarded to Albany, and that the several articles for that purpose herinafter mentioned, be provided by the Commissioners at Albany, that the whole may be forwarded to the south end of Lake George, viz:

A List of Men and articles to be procured by Peter T. Curtenius and forwarded to the agents at Albany:

2 mates for two vessels, 2 gunners, 2 carpenters capable of making carriages, 2 gunners' mates, 2 boatswains, 20 seamen. 200 barrels of pork, 10 barrels of pitch, 20 casks of rice, 4 barrels of tar, 500 lb. powder, (if so much can be got,) 1000 lb. of oakum, 100 shovels, 50 spades, 12 crowbars, and 50 pickaxes, to be marked "N. York.", 3 casks nails, one of 12d, 20d and 24d each, 100 camp kettles.

The following articles to be procured at Albany: Spikes, a gin, rope, 6 grindstones, cart boxes, 100 American falling axes, marked "N. York."

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee who viewed the ground at King's Bridge, and places adjacent.

Ordered, That a copy of the said report (with the Map annexed thereto) be transmitted to the New-York Delegates at Philadelphia, and that Mr. [Gouverneur] Morris and Captain [Richard] Montgomerie be a committee for drafting a letter to the said Delegates on the subject matter of said report.

Ordered, That the Committee of Correspondence draft an answer to Governor [Jonathan] Trumbull's letter, dated May 29th, 1775.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 27-28.

2. Curtenius had been appointed the day before as commissary to furnish provisions and stores for the garrisons on the Lakes. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I.

Pennsylvania Ledger, SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1775

New York, June 1.

The following account is given by a Gentleman of veracity, lately arrived from Boston.

On or about the 20th ultimo, General [Thomas] Gage ordered 200 soldiers armed, to proceed in two boats, with swivels to Grape Island, near Weymouth beach, to take possession of some hay and cattle. The country being alarmed, 3 or 400 provincials collected, and having only one boat, which contained 40 men. They landed on said island, and drove off the regulars, who being much discontented, ran their boats on the flats, where they remained four hours, all which time the provincials continued their fire, the boats then floating, the regulars returned to Boston, with the loss of eight men killed and several wounded, as the provincials were informed by a gentleman that left Boston the next day. The provincials being masters of the island, burnt 100 tons of hay, and drove off all the cattle, which were collected there by an enemy to this country. None of the provincials were killed or wounded.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, June 3, 1775

Upon motion *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed for the purpose of borrowing the sum of six thousand pounds for the use of America; for the repayment of which with interest, the Congress will make full and ample provision, and that the sd com[mittee] apply the sd sum of money to the purchase of gunpowder for the use of the Continental Army.

That the Delegates for Pennsylvania compose sd Committee, with power as well to borrow the money as to apply it to the purpose intended.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 79.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 3rd June 1775

Our [Continental] Congress are yet Sitting. and its thought the[y] will sit long, and nothing yet transpired only their Advice to the people of new York, which is in the publick prints,² there is a learge packet Arrived in Patuxent for them from London, and went through this town Express Last tuesday [May 30], but we know not the Contents, and only Guess at it, Some think it is the Different Accts of Parliment Respecting these provinces. Indeed most think so

I must lave the Management of the Schooner to you & G[eorge] D[arley] but I think She might Come here by the way of Thennrieff with Servants & wine, and save the duty on the wine beside powder would answer if it was well Stowed away.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. The advice to the City of New York upon how to act in case of the arrival of troops was in the form of a resolution in Congress, May 15, 1775, and was printed in the *Pennsylvania Packet* on May 22.

ALEXANDER INNES TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

My Lord,

Charles Town, June 3, 1775

I did myself the Honor of writing to Your Lordship by the Packet Boat the *Le Despencer* about the middle of last month; ² and a safe opportunity by a private

hand this day offering, I beg leave to acquaint Your Lordship that the Assembly met last Thursday the 1st instant, passed their Tax Bill, which they had ready prepared, and without sending it to the Council, or using any other ceremony, ordered Certificates to be issued for the amount of it, about 140,000 £ currency. They had just finished this business when the Lieutenant Governor farther adjourned them to the 19th instant, and then returned to the Country, from whence he had come the night before.

By a Vessel from New York that arrived here the 25th of last month, Mr. Bull received a letter from General [Thomas] Gage with an Account of the Action of the 19th of April; it was not published till this afternoon, when it appeared in the News paper I enclose, and Comments upon it in the same Column, so alert, and well informed are our people here.

The Provincial Congress met also on the 1st, and continue sitting: they have shut their doors against all but their own members, to whom they have strongly recommended strict Secrecy, but it is well known that the Objects of their present deliberation is framing a Test and Association; raising a large body of Troops, and throwing off the Mask at once, and taking the Government into their own hands, which in fact they have almost done already.

The Opulent and Sensible wish to avoid such desperate measures till they hear from the Continental Congress and have their Sanction; but they are powerfully opposed by a numerous body of the Low and Ignorant, led by a few desperate Incendarys, who have nothing to lose, and some hot headed Young Men of fortune whom it will be difficult to restrain. The Governor is expected every hour, and although he can *do* very little, yet I hope his presence with the King's ship under his Command may afford some countenance to the King's friends, and will I know embarrass the other party, who have at present a clear field: on this Account I presume His Lordship will detain the *Scorpion*, and never quit his Government till the last extremity.

I have had the strongest inclination for this fortnight past to give General Gage an Account of the State of this Province, but it was a liberty I could not presume to take, though my warm Zeal for the service of my Royal Master strongly promoted me. Two Frigates My Lord in this Harbour would have been (*and still would be*) the means of preventing much mischief, and [would] have been such a check on the Violent party here, that they never could have gone the lengths they have already done: The *Tamer* Sloop lies some miles below the Town, but Captain [Edward] Thornbrough, a very Old, Good Officer, has been confined to his Bed these two months and as the Lieutenant Governor is constantly at his country home waiting with anxious impatience for the Arrival of Lord William Campbell, was it in the Captain's power to be of use no proper requisition can be made him.

As we are in such a State here that it is not proper to write but by very safe hands, I shall take the opportunity of again writing Your Lordship by Captain Barbot, Commissary of Stores in West Florida, who is now here on his way to England, and who may be able to acquaint Your Lordship with many particulars

relative to this place. I have the Honor to be with the most perfect Respect My Lord [&c.]

Alex: Innes

1. Dartmouth Mss., 1270, printed *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, July, 1962, pp. 130, 131.
2. See Innes's letter of May 16, 1775.

LEVINUS CLARKSON TO DAVID VAN HORNE, NEW YORK ¹

Hon Sir

Chs Town 3d June 1775

Benjn Huger & his Lady goes by this Oppertunity who I have given a Letter of Recommendation to you He wants an Excellent Pipe of Wine for which he will call on you for – This Young Gentleman has an Estate here of £4000 Stg, And lately become a Banker so that his Income is much better, I have given him a Letter to my Brother David I hope he will take Notice of him, As the family have Shown me great Civility –, Capt Vesey is safe Arrivd & the Wines Landed, She had no Mediterranean pass, I shall make a good Voyage – Our Committee have stopd the Exportation of any Provisions, so that Nothing will be done here, I shall give up my House & sell my Furniture & take Lodgins at Brunswick until matters are: Setteld for it never will do to Stay here without Business, And I see Not the least prospect of having our Disputs Setteld soon Polly is mistaken in the Price of 4200 for Pompey, it was what I ask'd, I am in hopes to Sell Mr Bankers boy wch my Price is £100 Stg & he will answer one of the Companys as a Drummer. We shall imediately Raise 3000 Men – Regimented & paid, What has those Ministerial tools of Your place been about Writing, for Troops, Hang every Raskell, My Life is for the Cause of America in Particular my Native Country & when I act a part for so damd a Sett as the Delancey Family by giving them my Voice in an Ellection again, Never forgive me. I doubt not by their double handed Monuevers wth the Ministry they have deprived me of a very handsome Income – Mr Huger going to the Noward has deprived me of gitting Bills on you from him Mr G. Beekman Consignd me 3 Pipes of Madeira pr Fowler & 3 More to Mr Fenwick Bull As I have now Pipes of my own I delivered the 3 Pipes Addressd to me to Mr Bull, Acquain my Ressons for so doing as I am coming home, Likewis – Inform Mr Gates I have here the Rum & Bread Pr Fowler & Br[ought] by Turner the Latter Parcel without Invoice [or] Letter. The greater part of the Rum I have Sold 12/6 p gal, I am so hurried that I have hardly time to Write to Polly As I have not the least Assistance

I am Dr Sr [&c.]

Lev^s Clarkson

1. Levinus Clarkson Papers, 1772–93, LC.

4 June (Sunday)

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM FALMOUTH, CASCO-BAY, DATED JUNE 4, 1775.” ¹

Capt. —, (who on his passage to New-York from this place with a load of spars, was lately seized by Admiral Greaves and carried into Boston) returned here last Thursday Evening. He says he was at the wharf at Noodle's-island when the battle began, and has given us a particular account of the same. He says the

sloop near Winnisimmit, that had the first brush, cut or slipped her cables, and came and fastened to his stern: He was shocked to see the blood running out of the scuppers; there was a number of dead and wounded lying on the deck, but the survivors did not care to tell how many. The *Diana* schooner next engaged, and the master of her told Capt. —, that guns never were better served than ours were, that not a shot missed him. I have not time to write you all he says. One man was carried on board for dead, but next morning came too, and had not the least wound about him; others were frightened almost to death, &c. and that there was an amazing difference in the looks and behaviour of the enemy after the battle, from what there was before; before there was nothing but noise and confusion, afterwards all were still and quiet, insomuch that you could hardly perceive that there was any fleet or army there. From the General down to the common soldier, they seemed to be in a great panic, were afraid to go to bed, for fear the yankees should kill them before morning.

1. *Massachusetts Spy*, June 21, 1775.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM WATERTOWN, JUNE 4, 1775”¹

We have had a smart engagement at Noddle’s Island last Saturday week [May 27]; the Lord covered our heads in a wonderful manner in that day of battle. Although the balls flew like hail we never lost a single man, and had only three wounded; we took a large schooner [the *Diana*], killed about one hundred of their men, and took a large quantity of plunder, five hundred sheep, besides horses and horned cattle off the island: We took a boat and several men prisoners. Yesterday we burnt the house and barn that were on the island.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, June 12, 1775.

S. L. TO JOSEPH WARREN, PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS, WATERTOWN¹

Hond Sir

[June 4, 1775]²

It appears to me & others; that there is wanted in this Government some Armd Vessells to ward off the distressing Piraticull blos that without doubt will be struck: by Admll Samll Graves’s small Men a war & Tenders; by taking from us our inward bound Provisions; Molasses, & Salt Vessells, &c &c as they have don Will allmost bring on a famin in our Army, & on the Inhabitence; for this goverment allways was illable to support it selfe; with Provisions, &c &c; and now has in it an army to feede Which Will soone be felt; and be distressing to the Inhabitence & I fear Will bring on discontent & Murmorings; Which may be attended with bad consequences; to the disadvantage; of our imbarckt in; ever to be commended Common cause; so hope that by your Wise Counsell; you will be inabled to gard against every Evell, that might otherwise befall us; if we ware not under the Gardanship of Providence, & your Wise Counsell.

I here that there is a Ship allmost, or quite ready to Lanch at Danvers; of about three Handred Tuns. that its probable by information, will be a good saler: and other convenyences. by strengthing her with sum hanging Knees, building a round hous, & a top gallant forecastell &C that Would carry upwards of thirty



In Provincial CONGRESS, Watertown, June 12, 1775.

WHEREAS the Enemies of America, are multiplying their Cruelties towards the Inhabitants of the New-England Colonies, by seizing Provision Vessels, either the Property of, or intended to supply them; and also by plundering the Stock of Cattle, Sheep, &c. on their Sea Coasts:

RESOLVED, That it be, and it hereby is recommended to the Inhabitants of the Towns and Districts in this Colony, that they forthwith exert themselves to prevent the Exportation of Fish, and all other Kinds of Provision, excepting such only as shall be intended to supply the Inhabitants of the Colonies aforesaid: And as in the Opinion of the Select-Men and Committees of Correspondence, and Committees of Safety of the Town where the same shall be stored, may with Prudence be shipped for Conveyance by Water, for the Purpose aforesaid: And it is strongly recommended to the Select-Men, Committees of Correspondence, and Committees of Safety throughout the Colony, that they cause this Resolve to be strictly executed:-

JOSEPH WARREN, President.

Attest.

SAMUEL FREEMAN, Sec'y.

guns; and fight the Major part of her men betwene deck &c; and by inquierys, itt's quite Proballe that there may be found prov'd good saling Vessells now hawld up; that Would in part answer one End for our defence, & to bring Provisions from our Southern Governments for our support; and sum of them might be imply'd in bringing Powder and guns; from sum parts of the Spanish & French Kingdoms; and might smugell sum from other Powers; and Salt Peater, from others; Whare We could not git it maid Powder; and Make it here, Which Would be to our advantige to have it manufactird here, so Wishing for the smyles of Heaven in all youre undertakings, in the defence of our favrlable Libertys &c &c. and Remain. — [&c.]

[Endorsed] Letter from S L order'd to lie on the Table

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 277. An identical letter, addressed to the Committee of Safety, and dated "June 1775" is in Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 289.
2. The date is approximated. A committee was appointed to consider armed vessels on June 7, 1775, and while the endorsement shows that the letter was tabled, it may have influenced the June 7 action.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Sunday, June 4, 1775

Resolved, That Colonel [William] Henshaw be admitted to give an account of his proceedings at Connecticut, where he was sent by the last Congress, on the affair of Ticonderoga.

Ordered, That the Papers exhibited by Col. Henshaw be put into the hands of the Committee of Safety and the Committee of this Congress, who are appointed to confer with them to-morrow morning.

The Committee on Colonel [James] Easton's Letter, reported that it was their opinion it would be best to commit it to the Committee who were appointed to confer with the Committee of Safety to morrow morning.

It was accordingly given to the Hon. Mr. [Walter] Spooner.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1388, from Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

ELIZABETH BOWDOIN TO THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

Gentlemen,

Dorchester, June 4, 1775

Mr. [James] Bowdoin has just received the enclosed Depositions, and being in a very weak state, desires me to inform you, that for some time past the Faulkland [*Falcon*] Sloop-of-War, commanded by Captain [John] Linzey, has been cruising about the islands called Elizabeth Islands, near Martha's Vineyard. That the said sloop's boats have divers times landed armed men on the said islands, who has abused the Inhabitants, stove their boats, and by force taken away a considerable part of their property, as may more fully appear by the said Depositions.

It is humbly apprehended if about one hundred armed men were properly posted on the said islands, they would be a sufficient force to defend the Inhabitants, and protect their stock of cattle and sheep, which is very considerable, and which have hitherto every year furnished divers parts of this Colony with fat sheep and cattle for provisions, and particularly with a large quantity of wool for our home manufacture.

I beg leave to make this representation that you may take such measures as your wisdom shall dictate; and am, most respectfully, in Mr. Bowdoin's behalf, who is part owners of one of said islands, Gentlemen, [&c.]

Elizabeth Bowdoin

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

JOSHUA DAVIS TO THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLIES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentelman I have Jest Recd your order for Some Flower & am Much plesd that I have it in in Kingston to suply But am Sorrey that it is out of My power to give That Assistance in Despaching it to Watertown I should be glad to Having gest Recd Inteligence Half an ouer ago of a Vessel at some part of Bozards Bay 600 Bushls of good Corn 140 bb of flower 80 bb of pork which Capt Sopers Was so good as to Perswaide over from Nantuckt & had got in safe which is a wonder to me The Sound being so full of Tenders I think it My Duty to Secuer that Cargo is som safe-Plaice from the Ravegors of our Sea & Land. Altho I have no spetial orders for that vessel, shall accordingly go as Sune as Possabal for that purpos & hop to meat with Desierd Suceses. I Rote you a few Lines yesterday how far I had proseded & which I Belive you have Not Recd but trust you Will Before this Shall Mak it my endeavor to git the Rest of the flower and Boats as Sune as posabel to Kingston.

If I am Wrong in Securing the Cargo Mentioned. ples to Impute it to my Ignorance or Zeal for the glores Case & Not to My forwardness In taking in hand what I have no Business with & Shall Be alway Redey to Execute your orders so fare as my abilites or Strength Extend I am Genterlmen [&c.]

Joshua David

Plymouth Sunday Evening 10 oclock June 4 1775

P.S. I shall give all the assistance in Convayin the flower that Time Will permit As Delays are Dangorous Shall Not wait for your orders in Securin the Above sd Carg –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 317, 318.

ROBERT BEVERLY TO SAMUEL ATHANES, LONDON ¹

I have received yr several Letters by the Capts Dobbie & Oakam, but have not Leisure to reply to them so fully as I could wish by the present Opportunity.

You will receive but very little of my Tobo by Oakam having shipped upwards of thirty hhds on board the *Justitia*, Capt Kidd from this River to yr Address – My Motives for acting in this Manner proceeded from the Confusion of the Times, many People having clamoured for an immediate stop of all Exports to G Britain, & the Uncertainty whether you wd have a Ship in or not as you did not mention that Circumstance by Dobbie – Our publick Prints will inform you very fully of the general Confusion, wh prevails on this Side the Atlantick, a Confusion, wh must fill every Lover of Law, Order, & good Government with the most real Concern – I profess myself to be of this Number, & therefore feel very forcibly the Calamities of our present Situation, particularly, as I am of Opinion that it is

in the Power of America, at this Time, to bring this dreadful Dispute to a fortunate & honorable Issue, & that little more is required to effect it, than to consider ourselves as Members of the British Empire – You mistook my Meaning prodigiously in my last Letter if you can suppose I could wish to violate or evade the Act of Navigation, for altho' as some people say, it may not perhaps be *quite constitutional*, when we consider ourselves as Freemen, yet I forsee such Endless & irreconcilable Disputes, arising from an Altercation on that Subject, & consequently a total *Independance* on [*sic of*] the Mother Country, that I could wish never to have it mention'd, or that any Obstacle could be thrown in the Way, wh could retard a reconciliation – In the present situation of Affairs both Countries must feel so much Misery & Uneasiness, that I cannot look upon any Man or Set of Men with the Eye of respect or Esteem, who wd wish to increase our present Distractions – I have ever been of Opinion, that as Freemen, our Properties should be exempt from Parliamentary Taxation, & our Persons fully secured from Punishments, unless inflicted under our own Laws – These material Points being once secured, I shd always suppose it our Duty to contribute to the utmost of our Abilities, in a constitutional way, to the general Support of Empire – These are the Outlines of my political Sentiments, & these are such, as I shd suppose every Lover of his Country will amply approve – I propose to write you very fully by Capt Gibson in Answer to yr several Letters, & in the mean Time desire you will ensure 300 £ stg exclusive of Premium & Policy on 30 hhds Tobo in the *Justitia*, Capt Kidd – What I shall send you in Oakam I do not intend to ensure.

[Virginia] June 4th 1775

1. Robert Beverly Letter Book, LC.

PHILIP LEE TO WILLIAM LEE ¹

[Extract]

Wmsburg Virga June 4th 1775

I shall write you more fully when I return from this Place where I am now Confined on the Assembly wch met on Thursday last [June 1] Inclosed you have the Govrs Speech, Ld Norths Olive Branch as it is Called Vizt the Resolve of the House of Commons is looked upon throughout every Colony whose Assembly has met as an Insult to the Injurys Offered & will not be Accepted – [torn] are in a state of Confusion owing to the Govrs removing the Powder out of the Magazine in the Night on board of a Sloop of War, and the flame of the People again kindled by his Ldship's Fixing Guns in the Windows and doors of the Magazine Loaded, with Spring Locks to fire on the hoisting a Window or opening of a door in an Attempt of Some of the Citizens to get some of the Arms for the Volunteers of Wmsburg fired, and Wounded several Valuable Gentlemen tho' fortunately, not mortally I fear this Cruel & unhuman Snare of the Govrs on the lives of the Sons of Liberty will raise fresh Commotions in the Country & I much dread it's Consequences he is by no means a Proper man to be set at the Head of this Brave and Spirited People as under his Weak and Wicked Administration We have the Horrors of a Civil War to dread wch [his] Mad Conduct will unavoidably soon Invite.

1. Philip Lee Papers, VHS.

5 June

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Scarborough at Piscataqua June 5th 1775

Sir, I wrote to You the 1st June by Mr [Thomas] Fisher, in that I acquainted You, I was credibly inform'd that the People intended to erect Batteries in order to drive the Ship out of the Harbour, and that they were throwing up Intrinchments at Kittery on the Massachusetts Side, upon my observing their Motions, I wrote a Letter to Colonel Sparhawk and Mr Chaunsey two of the principal Inhabitants of that place and acquainted them I observed that they were erecting some Works in that part, I supposed for a Battery of Guns in order to annoy the King's Ship, In the King's Name warn'd them to desist in such treasonable proceedings, for they might be assured that the moment a Shot was fired either from Cannon or Musquetry on the Ship or Boats, or one Gun pointed from that Eminence I would instantly batter down the Town of Kittery and destroy all the Vessels and Craft belonging to that part and likewise make Prisoners of every Man I met with; In the Afternoon I received their Answer acquainting me that an Express had arrived in their Town, acquainting them, there were eight Vessels sent from Boston to make an Attack some where, that the People were much alarmed and accordingly assembled on that Hill, in order to watch the motions of the said Vessels; if they should come into the Port; they likewise acquainted me, there was not one single step taken in building or rebuilding any fortification, but that the same remain'd in the State it had been in for upwards of twenty Years; And that they had done every thing in their powers to pacify and calm the People, and that they were beginning to disperse and go home, and they hoped their conduct would be such, That I would not be obliged to Act in the manner I mentioned to them, that they would heartily rejoice, if they could but be any ways instrumental in hindering all kinds of Imprudencies taking place amongst them, but such was the extremity of the times, that it was impossible to restrain all, but at all times would do their utmost, to keep peace and good Orders and that they were retiring with their Families, to some place of quietness, if such a Place could be found; seeing the Inhabitants of Kittery and Newcastle removing from their dwelling Houses with all their effects and the number of Armed Men on both sides and likewise in the Town of Portsmouth, made me imagine they had some intention of putting their threats into Execution in attacking the Ship and it was so universally believed onshore, that *Captain* [John] *Cochran* who commands Fort William and Mary, removed his Family and all his Effects from there; We lay under Arms all night about 3 o'Clock in the Morning as the Guard-boat was rowing guard; about a Mile ahead of Us She was fired upon by about forty Men who lay concealed behind an old House close by the Waterside where she went past, they shot one Man in the Arm and slightly wounded two others, the Officer and people returned their Fire, I immediately fired three or four Guns from the Ship upon those Rebels, but it being dark and they hid behind some Rocks, I believe the Shot did no Execution, I immediately acquainted Governor Wentworth of this event, who in return acquainted me, in the Name of the Town that they were no ways con-

cerned in this base and destructive Act, and that the whole town universally exclaimed and censured such a murderous Act and would do every thing in their power to bring the Perpetrators to Justice (*which they never mean to perform*[]). I immediately seized upon all their Fishermen that I met with, which were about nine or ten, upon which a Committee who act at Portsmouth wrote to me and said they were very ready to settle any manner of dispute that might be between me and the Town of Portsmouth; I sent them a Memorandum that I knew of no such People as those that stile themselves *Committee Men*, but if the People of Portsmo: wanted to settle any matters with me, respecting the present interruption of the Communication between me and the Town, it must come thro' Governor Wentworth to me, That I would have wrote to Govr Wentworth, but he informed me, that all Communication between him and the *Scarborough* was cut off.

The next morning the Selectmen of Portsmouth waited on me with a Letter from Governor Wentworth A Copy of which I herewith send You. I acquainted these Men that when I was convinced there was peace and good Order in the Town of Portsmouth and if there was no obstruction in his Majs Ship being supplied will all Necessaries that She might want nor her Boats molested in passing or repassing to the Town from the Ship, That I would discharge them, and would give His Majesty's peaceable Subjects in the Town of Portsmouth, every Indulgence I could consistent with my duty, they assured me in the Name of the Town that I should be supplied as usual and the intercourse noways interrupted, upon which I discharged the Men, I hope it will meet with your Approbation; I hope we shall have peace and quietness now for a little while, as the People are returning back with their effects.

The Collector and some other People who had taken shelter Onboard of the *Scarborough*, from the Selectmens assurance of peace in the Town, are gone back. I dont believe it will be very long before they will be here again.

Sign'd And^w Barkley

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Monday, June 5, 1775

Ordered, That the Letter from Governqr [Jonathan] Trumbull just received and read, be committed to the Committee of Safety and the Committee appointed to confer with them.

Resolved, That the four Prisoners brought to this Congress by Sergeant John Parker, be committed to the custody of the guard which is appointed to guard the public stores in Watertown, till the further order of this Congress; and the Commissary be directed to provide what provision they may stand in need of till to-morrow morning.

Resolved, That Friday next, at 3 o'clock, P.M., be assigned for the consideration of the Report of Colonel [Samuel] Thompson, relative to his proceedings at Kennebeck.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

COURT MARTIAL OF CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP, R.N.¹

(Duplicate)

At a Court Martial held Onboard His Majesty's Ship *Somerset* in Boston Harbour this 5th of June 1775.

Present

Edward Le Cras Esqr Commander of his Majesty's Ship *Somerset* and Senior Captain of the King's Ships at Boston President Captain Broderick Hartwell James Chads John Robinson Tyringham Howe

The Court pursuant to an Order from Vice Admiral Graves Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships in North America, to Captain Le Cras dated the 20th of May, proceeded to enquire into the Conduct of Captain Thomas Bishop and to try him upon a charge exhibited against him by the said Vice Admiral, that on or about the 6th of May last being stationed with His Majesty's Ship the *Lively* then under his Command at Marblehead, Two Schooners arrived there with Money and Effects saved from the wreck of a Spanish Vessel which it was his duty to have acquainted the Admiral with, but which he neglected so to do,

And further the Admiral having sent Lieut. Thomas Graves in His Majesty's Armed Schooner the *Diana* with Orders to bring the Money and Vessels from Marblehead to Boston, desiring Captain Bishop by Letter to assist Lieutenant Graves in carrying these Orders into Execution – But he the said Captain Bishop having taken the Money onboard the *Lively* did not send it to Boston in the *Diana*, but detained it contrary to the Admiral's Orders.

The Court having examined the Witnesses and maturely weighed and considered the Evidence, as well as what the Prisoner offered in his own defence, and all other Circumstances, is of Opinion the Charge is proved in part, but do acquit Captain Bishop of acting intentionally to the prejudice of His Majesty's Service, or with disrespect to the Admiral, and impute it entirely to an Error in Judgment for which he ought to be reprimanded and he is here reprimanded accordingly.

Chas^s Lyell Deputy Judge Advocate
A true Copy Cha Lyell

E. Le Cras
B. Hartwell
Ja^s Chads

J Robinson
Tyr^m Howe

[Endorsed] Sentence of a Court Martial/ upon Captain Bishop/ Dated 5th June 1775

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

, *Newport Mercury*, MONDAY, JUNE 5, 1775

Newport, June 5.

Last Saturday [June 3], George Rome having bought a quantity of flour &c. and put in some Stores on the Point, supposed for the Use of the Enemies of this country, a number of people collected together, & insisted on having the flour given up, which was accomplished before sunset, notwithstanding said Rome had the effrontery to insult the town, by getting a number of marines on shore, from

the men of war in this harbour. The flour being 84 barrels, was lodged in the brick market.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Rose Rhode Island June 5th 1775.

Sir On the 3d instt An Insurrection happened here – The People took it in their heads, A Merchant (Mr [George] Rome) had bought some Provisions for the Use of Government – they stopped the Carts, threw about the Flour, flew to Arms with an avowed intent to destroy the Merchant's House and Stores crying out through the Streets now was the time to kill the Tories – Intelligence was given me of this Transaction – I went on Shore saw the Rebels, coming in Shoals, Armed with Musquets, Bayonets, Sticks and Stones &c. Was it possible I could be a Spectator of this? – I got a hundred Men and More ashore well appointed. Stopt them in their Career, told them upon the first Act of Hostility We would rush on and put every Man to the Sword, and at the same time order the Ships to fire the Town in every quarter – This together with the prayers and entreaties of Several of their principal Men (who were alarmed at the Prospect) put a Stop to an Affair wherein the lives of hundreds were concerned.

In the beginning of the Fray, one of the most daring of the Rebels who pressed too close on upon us I seized by the Collar and made Prisoner. Many Gentlemen of the Town begged Me to give him up, And if I did they assured me they would disperse and restore peace to the Town. answered them, I came on shore for No other purpose than to keep the Peace – and preserve from destruction the King's friends – Could I be assured of that I would turn him out instantly – turned out he was. they soon after retired and dispersed – And we embarked on board after being on shore about four Hours. During which time our people behaved with the greatest good Order. Different Reports say there was from three to Seven hundred Men under Arms besides those with Sticks Stones &ca – while on shore we were joined by Lieutt Brenton of the Navy upon half pay here, who I must do the Justice to Say Shewed every disposition of a good Officer, and Subject, and for which he is obliged to abandon his family and farm, and take shelter on board His Majesty's Ship. The people of the Town having Sworn and attempted his destruction. I am &c.

Ja^s Wallace

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

Connecticut Courant, MONDAY, JUNE 5, 1775

Hartford, June 5 [1775].

Extract of a Letter from Portsmouth to the Provincial Congress, Massachusetts, and from them forwarded to the Committees of Correspondence in Connecticut.

Gentlemen, We had two provision Vessels siezed at the Mouth of our Harbour last Night, by the *Scarborough*, and upon Application made to Capt. Barclay for their Release, find he has positive Orders from the Admiral to take Possession of all Vessels laden with Provisions, Salt and Molasses,

and sent them to Boston – and says further, those Orders are circular through the Continent.

By order of the Committee.
 Portsmouth 29 May, [1775]

B. Wentworth, Chairman

New York Gazette, MONDAY, JUNE 5, 1775

New-York, June 5.

Yesterday being the Anniversary of his Majesty's Birth Day, when he entered the 38th Year of his Age, a Royal Salute was fired from the *Asia*, of 64 Guns, in this Harbour, commanded by George Vandeput, Esq; The Crew then gave three Cheers, which was immediately answered by a Number of the Inhabitants who lined the Docks at the Time.

MAJOR ISAAC HAMILTON TO CADWALLADER COLDEN, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
 OF NEW YORK ¹

Sir

[New] York Barracks June 5, 1775

The Loss of our Men by Desertion is so great, and the Apprehension of losing more, I therefore think it necessary for the good of the Service to retreat on Board his Majesty's Ship the *Asia*, and have applyed to Captain [George] Vandeput, who has been pleased to offer all the Services and Protection in his Power, and tomorrow (if you have no Objection) shall embark the five Companys under my Command; As it is not Convenient for Captain Vandeput to receive on Board our Women and Children I am to request your Honor will be pleased to grant me Leave to encamp them on Governors Island, untill such time as the Commander in Chief is informed of our Situation and sends a transport for the Detachment.

I am further to request, Sir you will be pleased to Direct the Barrack Master to lend us a few Blankets and Utensils to accomodate both Officers and others whose Situation will not admit them to go on Board the Man of War immediately.

I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

Isaac Hamilton

Major to His Majesty's 18 or Royal Irish Regiment of Foot

1. *Golden Papers*, VII, 299, 300.

6 June

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN IN SALEM TO ANOTHER IN THIS CITY [PHILADELPHIA], DATED TUESDAY, JUNE 6, [1775]" ¹

It is galling to the surly old Admiral, who, it seems, growls like a cur dog, that our people should burn one of his cutters under his nose, and take All the STOCK off the Islands, and burn the houses, barns, &c. on Noddle's island, in which affair they lost a great many men. Mr. ——— whose integrity, you know, may be relied upon, was in Boston at the time the dead were landed, and says they were obliged to dig a hole twenty five feet square to bury them in.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, June 17, 1775.



Plan of New York and vicinity, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Tuesday, June 6, 1775

Ordered, That Colonel [Samuel] Thompson, Major [Eleazer] Brooks, and Col. [Edward] Cutt, be a Committee to inquire into the circumstances of bringing the four Prisoners to this place yesterday.

Moved, That the Congress take some order at this time relative to the Prisoners.

The question being put, it passed in the negative.

Afternoon

Ordered, That the Committee appointed to inquire into the circumstances of bringing four Prisoners from Cambridge, be directed to make such provision for them as is necessary, till further orders from this Congress; and that Mr. [James] Robinson be added to the Committee, and that said Committee report what they think would be best to be done with them.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1391–1393, from Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

JOSHUA DAVIS TO CAPTAIN WALTER HATCH ¹

To Capt Walter Hatch of the Sloop *Nance* owned by Colll Elisha Downs

You are hereby Desired to Deliver sd Sloop in Dartmouth where she now is & Not remove nor brake bulk by Any Means Untill you hear from the Committee of Supplys for this Government & hall the Vessell into the Most Secure place possable Any failure herein Will incur the Displeasure of the Committee of Supplys of the Congress Am Sr [&c]

Plimouth June 6th 1775

Joshua Davis

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 205.

“REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY’S SHIP *Rose*” ¹

June 1775

Moor’d in Rhode Island Harbour

Tuesdy 6 A M fired a Gun & made Sigl for our Boat. P M Stop’t the Schooner *Bonaventure* Jno Waterman from Philadelph with Provisions.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMITTEE OF INTELLIGENCE TO THE COMMITTEE OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA ¹

Gentlemen

South Carolina Charlestown June 6th. 1775

By order of our Provincial Congress wch is now sitting we inclose you a Copy of a letter from General [Thomas] Gage to the Governor of your Colony.² It was transmitted to this Town to be sent from hence to Mr [Josiah] Martin which gave us an Opportunity of Interceptg it We trust you will use it with discretion and not make it public without you shall Deem it absolutely necessary as it may prevent any more from falling into our Hands by causing them to be more cautious

in future, there can be no Doubt of its Authenticity it is sealed with the General's Arms and several Persons who are well acquainted with his Hand writing have attested the signature to be his your Knowledge of this Letter and of the Designs of General Gage and your Governor may enable you to counteract their Machinations, Altho' the General might have no Arms to spare at the Time he wrote this letter which appears by the Date to be before the Defeat & flight of a large detachment of his Army from Concord to Boston you may have since seen from the public Prints that a number of the Inhabitants of Boston were obliged to surrender their Arms (we are told five Thousand stand) before they were suffered to leave that City these he may send to Mr Martin & if he should We hope they will fall into your Hands. We have wrote to New York to stop the Powder if it is not too late if it should have been sent from thence we hope you will secure it —

We think it proper to inform you that we have Received advices that a Mr Colson a Mr Dunn and a Mr Booth are endeavouring to foment disturbances among the back Inhabitants of your Colony — It is with the highest Satisfaction we perused the Patriotic & Elegant Answer of your Assembly to your Governor. We have no Doubt but that they & you will hold a proper Conduct towards a Man who is secretly preparing to plunge a Dagger in your Persons The Assurances we have received from the Committee of Wilmington convince us that your Colony will spurn the insidious Offers of Administration and remain firm in the glorious struggle for the Rights of Humanity. Our Provincial Congress are taking into Consideration matters of the highest Importance for the safety of this Colony, They have already agreed to an Association Copy of which we herewith Enclose you, it has been signed by all the Members of the Congress and the Inhabitants are now subscribing it with Rapidity We this Day came to a Resolution of raising two Regiments of Foot of seven hundred & fifty privates each and a Regiment of Rangers of four Hundred and fifty it is not improbable that we may be under the necessity in order to Dispatch our Levies of applying to you for Permission to raise a part of our force in yr Colony in which we Doubt not of obtaining your Countenance & Assistance. You may be assured of our utmost exertions in Defence of American Liberty and that no consideration can induce us to swerve from the great cause in which we are Engaged—. We have the Honour to be Gentlemen [&c.]

W^m H^y Drayton Chairman

Arthur Middleton

Charles Cotesworth Pinkney

Roger Smith

W^m Tennent

Committee of Intelligence

P.S. Our secret Committee have this Day Intercepted a letter from Capt Francis Parry a certified Copy of which we herewith enclose you ³

W^m H^y Drayton

1. Hayes Mss. (P.C. 117), NCDAH.

2. Gage's letter to Martin of April 12, 1775.

3. Commander of H.M.S. *Cruizer* in Cape Fear River.

7 June

COMMITTEE OF PENOBSCOT TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS,
CAMBRIDGE ¹

Gentn

Penobscot June 7 1775

We the Subscribers, being appointed a Committee by the Inhabitants settled on Penobscot River; the Inhabitants of Belfast, Majabigwaduce, & Benjamins River, to make a Representation to you of the difficulties & Distress the said Inhabitants are under, in Respect to the scarcity of Corn & Ammunition occasioned by the interception of vesseles, which they depended upon for their supplies; also the impediments to exportation from the Seaport Towns from the different Committees from wh the said Articles have been purchased – We accordingly herewith send you the votes of said Inhabitants pass'd by them at a general meeting on Tuesday the 6th day of June instant which we are to pray your consideration of, being encourag'd thereto from the many instances of favors & assistance which the provence have heretofore afforded to this infant settlement; and without some, at this time we have real cause to apprehend that these promising settlements may be broke up. We are further to assure you that the said Inhabitants are ready with their lives & all that they have, to support the cause which their country is engaged in, in defence of their libertys & privileges; and will hold themselves in readiness for that purpose. The said Committee are also to inform you that it was represented at the said Meeting that the establishment of Fort Pownall is nearly expired: That the Commander of the sd Fort in obedience to the commands of the Govr delivered to his order the Artillery & some Arms belonging to the sd Fort: That he also delivered to our own inhabitants in the different ports of this vicinity upon their application some Arms & Ammunition; reserving only a small quantity of each for the use of the soldiers belonging to said Garrison, which occasions the said Fort at this time to be very bare in those respects. We are also to represent to you that the Town of Belfast is in want of about a dozen stand of Arms which is not practicable to be got here. All which we are enjoined to lay before you, Gentlemen, who represent the province in this unhappy time; & I to pray you to take the same into your consideration & give them such relief as upon mature deliberation you judge expedient. We are in behalf of the said Inhabitants Gentn. [&c.]

Tho Goldthwaite	Edm ^d Mooers
John Huff	Benj ⁿ Shute
Jonathan Buck	Oliver Crary

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Exeter] Wens'day June 7th [1775]

The following Resolve was passed the first of June but omitted to be entered then.

Resolved, That the Committee of Portsmouth together with Capt. Ezekiel Worthen be desired to provide a number of Fascines and also to procure proper Carriages for those guns removed from Jerry's Point, and also such other materials,

as they may think necessary for erecting a Battery to hinder the passage of ships up to the Town, and also, that they Endeavour (if it can be done with secresy & safety) to get what shot may be at the Fort at New Castle, and that all those matters be done with the utmost secresy the Business will allow of, And then determine upon some suitable place for a Battery where the materials when completed may suddenly be removed to.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 506.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

In Provincial Congress at Exeter June 7th. 1775

Whereas by and in Consequence of a Law of the Colony Considerable Sums of money have been paid by foreign Vessells Entering the Port of Piscataqua, which was by said Law to have been Appropriated for Purchasing Powder for the use of the Colony and whereas a part thereof has been lately paid by the Execution of the Testament of the late Govr Benning Wentworth to Samuel Livermore Esqr. Attorney Generall

And as the State of the Colony now greatly needs Said Money for providing Powder for the Defence thereof According to the original Intentions of the aforesaid Law, Therefore

Resolved that John Hurd & Israel Morey Esqrs & Mr. Abel Webster be a Committee to Call upon and receive the said moneys of the said Samuel Livermore Esqr and in behalf of this Congress to give him a receipt therefore Sufficient to Indemnify him for the Delivery thereof.

Attest R. Thompson Secry

1. John Langdon Papers, HSP.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, June 7, 1775

The Committee appointed to consider what is best to be done with the four prisoners brought from Dartmouth via Cambridge, reported. The Report was recommitted.

Afternoon

The Committee appointed to inquire into the circumstances of the four Prisoners reported. The Report was amended and accepted, and is as follows:

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the circumstances of the four Prisoners brought to this Congress on the 2d of June instant, said to be taken at Dartmouth since the 19th of April last, beg leave to report, that it is the opinion of this Committee, that the said four prisoners, viz: Richard Luckus, Mate of the Ship *Falcon*, John Dunkinson, Surgeon's Mate, Jonathan Lee, and Robert Cady, be sent to Concord, to the care of the Selectmen of said Town, to be by them secured and provided for, agreeable to their rank, at the expense of this Colony, until they receive some further order from this or some other Congress or House of Representatives of this Colony.

Ordered, That the Honourable Colonel [James] Warren, Mr. [John] Pitts, Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, the President, Colonel [Nathaniel] Freeman, Mr. [John]

Pickering, Mr. [Josiah] Batchelder, Honourable Mr. [Samuel] Dexter, and Mr. [Benjamin] Greenleaf, be a Committee to consider the expediency of establishing a number of small armed Vessels to cruise on our sea-coasts for the protection of our trade and the annoyance of our enemies; and that the Members be enjoined by order of Congress to observe secrecy in this matter.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1393-1395, from Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir,

Preston Boston 7 June 1775

The Rebels pursuing their avowed design of cutting off possible Supply to the Army and Navy, and of destroying what they cannot carry away, burnt a great deal of Hay on Hog Island the 27th of last month; a few hours after they landed on Noddles Island not only to burn the Hay thereon bought for the Army, but also to set fire to a Store house, hired when the *Glasgow* was ashore, in which I had deposited two large Cargoes of Lumber, Board and Spars, until an Opportunity offered of sending part of each to Halifax. In the Store house was also many other Articles that the Store Schooner could not conveniently hold. The preservation of all these became of great Consequence, not altogether from their intrinsic Value, but from the almost impossibility of replacing them at this Juncture. On Noddles Island, besides the Hay and Stores just mentioned, were above 600 Sheep, several milch Cows and a Number of Horses; the most part private property. It was absolutely requisite to prevent the destruction of the Stores, and if possible the Hay, Sheep &c: therefore upon observing the Rebels landed on Noddles Island, I ordered the *Diana* to sail immediately between it and the Main, and get up as high as possible to prevent their Escape, and I also directed a party of Marines to be landed for the same purpose: there was no time to be lost, and assistance from the Army could not immediately be had.

The *Diana* entered the River between three and four in the Afternoon at low water, and proceeded to Hog Island with some interruption from the Rebels on all Sides. The Number on Hog and Noddles Islands were computed at 700 men. Parties of each occasionally attacked the *Diana*, but they were all obliged to quit Noddles Island without doing the intended Mischief. This effected, as I had ordered Lieut. [Thomas] Graves not to remain in the River upon the Turn of the Tide, he began to come away: It fell calm; the Boats of the Squadron were ordered to tow the *Diana*: by the close of the Evening the whole Country was alarmed; General [Israel] Putnam had brought I am told full two thousand Men with two Field pieces from Cambridge, with which he lined the Shore and greatly annoyed the *Diana*. The Marines from the Squadron were landed on the Island with two Pounders from the *Cerberus*, and the General sent two pieces of Artillery; but it was impossible, tho' in sight of the Fleet, to give the schooner any other Assistance than by Boats to tow her out; her slow progress by this means unavoidably exposed her to the Enemy; the Calm continued, it grew almost dark, the fire of the Rebels increased, and between 11 and 12 at Night she unfortunately got aground upon the Ferry Ways at Winnisimmet, and the Tide ebbing fast it almost instantly

became impossible to move her, although every means was tried to get her off; about 3 in the Morning she fell over, so that they were obliged to quit her and go into the *Britannia* armed Sloop, who had been sent to their Assistance.

In this Sloop they renewed the fight, which had continued with little intermission from 4 o'Clock; but, as the Schooner was by this time dry, the Rebels set her on fire and entirely destroyed her. In the *Somersets* Boat two Men were killed and two wounded; several were wounded in the Schooner and other Boats.

I transmit the Sentence of a Court Martial held upon the Commander, Officers and Crew of the said Schooner on this occasion. The very honourable Acquittal of the Commander of the *Diana* by the Court, I make no doubt will be satisfactory to their Lordships. Several of the Members saw part of the Action. The Situation of the Combatants afforded me also an opportunity of hearing their Discharges at each other and for some time of seeing the Battle.

The concurrent Testimony of those immediately concerned, of the nearest Spectators, and indeed the general Voice, authorize me to assure their Lordships of the perseverance and good Conduct of Lieut. Graves the Commander of the *Diana* in this Action, which lasted nearly eleven hours. I beg you will also represent to their Lordships, that it being very warm Weather, the far greater part of the Officers and people were in their Shirts, that the necessity for quitting the Schooner was urgent, and that it was morally impossible to save a single Article; with the loss of the Kings Schooner therefore they lost every thing they possessed on Board her.

I submit to their Consideration that as the Schooner was bravely defended to the last moment, against a very superior Enemy, the Officers and Crew should be indemnified for their Losses. It will operate as an Encouragement and be an Example to the whole Fleet to defend his Majesty's Ships and Vessels to the last Extremity, even against great Superiority of Numbers; and ought not to be drawn into precedent, except in extraordinary cases like this and the *Gaspee's* at Rhode Island, The Commander of which received very honorable Marks of their Lordships appreciation of his Conduct, and the Officers and Crew were I am told also severally recompenced.² I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 104–107, MassHS Transcript.

2. The British armed schooner *Gaspee* ran ashore on June 9, 1772, while pursuing a suspected smuggler in Narragansett Bay, and was attacked, captured, and burned by a band of armed men, whose identities were never discovered by British authorities.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Lively*, CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP,
COMMANDING ¹

June 1775 Moor'd off Charles Town Ferry
Wendy 7 Charles Town Church Steeple N N E. the High Church
 in Charles Town S B E Beacon Hill S W B S.
 at 6 A M came onboard Captain Bishop & took Command of the
 Ship Saluted the Admiral with 13 Guns he having shifted his Flag

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

JOHN BROWN TO MOSES BROWN ¹

Dear Brother

Providence June 7th 1775

I Expected to have Seen you Ere I Determin'd on Suing Capt [James] Wallace, but on findg. that my not prosecuting him was one Argument made Use of against me & indeed all the Brothers that we are Toreys, and that we Were in League &c. with Genl [Thomas] Gage & Consequently with Capt Wallace & others under him, & I having allways Determind to prosecute Either here or in London thought best to do it here without Further Delay & Accordg did Send a Writt in Ten Thousand pounds L Mony Dammage to the Sherriff of new port Yesterday by Capt Power returnable to our December Court, which I hope will be Served this Day what the Event May prove Time will bring Forth; but I thought best to Acquaint You of it by Friend Jno as he Expects You'l be in New port tomorrow I have Desired the Sherriff to take [George] Rome for Bail if Offerd, but if he Should be Committed, I fear he will be the Loser, perhaps it may be Nessessary to Indever to Get an order from the Court to Remove him from that Jail in Case he Chuses Reether to be Committeed than by your Bail. I am

Your Affectionate Brother with Hartey thanks for your Late unspeakable Brotherly Love and Friendship towards me

Jno Brown

1. Moses Brown Papers, RIHS.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*" ¹

June 1775

Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour

Wedsdy 7 P M Stopt the Sloop *Friendship* Jno Monro Master from New York with Flour.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Die Mercurii, 4 ho. P.M. June 7th, 1775

The Congress than took into consideration the case of Robert and John Murray, which lies before this Congress by a general reference from the Continental Congress, and after some time spent therein, it was ordered to be deferred for further consideration.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 34.

CADWALLADER COLDEN, LIEUT. GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

New York 7th June 1775

His Majesty's Ship *Asia* came into our Harbour about ten days since. In my letter of March 1st No 13 I informed your Lordship that I had suggested to Admiral [Samuel] Graves the propriety of sending one of the large Ships to this Place. He answered that I might expect the *Asia* here by the 1st of April. I am heartily sorry she was not, for I really think the Countenance of that Ship would have had a good effect by encouraging some and discouraging others . . .

In my letter to Your Lordship No 16 [May 3, 1775] I mentioned the very disagreeable & critical situation of the Few Troops who were quartered in the

Barracks of this Place and that only by the interposition of the more prudent Inhabitants, they were suffered to remain in Peace. No Pains however were spared to debauch the men and induce them to desert. Large Rewards and certain Protection they were assured of; which had such effect that the officers began at last to apprehend they were in danger of looseing the whole. In this situation General [Thomas] Gage wrote to Major [Isaac] Hamilton, by the *Asia*, that he thought it would be a proper measure to put the Troops under his command on Board of that Ship, and desired him to consult with me upon it. As I was very sensible this small number of Troops could not be of any use in the Barracks, and were exposed to those very disagreeable circumstances I have already mentioned, I did not doubt of the propriety of the Measure proposed by Genl Gage a difficulty however arose on account of the women and Children, who were too numerous to be taken on Board with the men, almost the whole that belong to the Regiment being in the Barracks here with this detachment. This occasioned a delay of eight or ten days in which time several soldiers deserted. We at length thought of enchamping the Women and Children on what is called the Governors Island, till they could be otherwise taken care of, and yesterday was fixed for embarking the Troops on Board the *Asia*. The Provincial Congress had notice, that some people proposed to stop the embarkation upon which they published a hand Bill advising the People by no means to molest the Troops, or interrupt them in their design. They likewise appointed a number of their members to join the City Magistrates and assist them in preventing any interruption to the Troops. As soon as the Troops marched from the Barracks, several People began to harangue them, exhorting them to desert, and assuring them of sufficient Protection. Two or three fellows had the hardiness to turn off with their arms, from the Ranks, and were immediately carried away by the People, when the Troops got upon the Deck [Dock] where they were to embark on board of Boats, the Carts following in the rear with the Baggage, were stoppd and in the Face of the Mayor, Aldermen, Congress and Committee men, turn'd about by a few desperate fellows, carried to a Place in Town, where they opened the Baggage, and took out a number of spare arms and all the ammunition belonging to the Detachment. The Troops embarkd without their Baggage

1. O'Callaghan, ed., *Colonial New York*, VII, 581, 582.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Mercurii 9 ho. A.M., June 7, 1775

Mr. [Gouverneur] Morris, from the Committee for that purpose, reported a draught of a Letter to the New-York Delegates at the Continental Congress, on the subject of erecting a Fortification at King's Bridge. The same was read and approved of, and is in the words following:

Gentlemen: In Provincial Congress, New-York, June 7, 1775

Upon receiving the resolutions of the Congress which relate to the fortifying King's Bridge, &c., we appointed Committees to view those places. Our Committee from King's Bridge made a report the third instant, of which we send you a copy. We have only to add, that by reason of the easiness of

approach, which will arise from the great irregularity of the ground on Manhattan's Island, especially to the northward, no fortification can be so constructed as to be tenable for any length of time; and even if such thing were practicable, yet if the enemy are superiour in the field, then, as they must necessarily command the rivers, such fortification might be reduced by famine, if not otherwise to be taken. It follows, therefore, that if the post is to be fortified, with a view to render it a magazine or place of arms, that no part of the island is properly adapted to that purpose.

Considering it in the light of a post for preserving the communication between the city and the country, upon a supposition that the rivers are occupied by ships-of-war, then if the place marked A were strong and capable of sustaining a regular siege, still a body of forces on the island could as effectually cut off the communication in many other places. On the other hand, if the enemy should possess themselves of the post A, besides that it is commanded by the two heights marked B, particularly Tippet's Hill, yet it would by no means serve to cut off the communication, because it would be easy to cross Harlem River in boats, with a body of forces, in several places, where no vessel-of-war could lay without being exposed to fire from such very high grounds as to be quite out of reach of her artillery; and also because that river is fordable in places which are covered from any fire which can be made from the said post. And not only would the enemy's possession be ineffectual for their purposes, it would also bring on them certain destruction; for that it would be very easy to cut off their retreat to the Town, and, from the great elevation of ground above the river, to prevent any relief which they would receive from vessels-of-war; wherefore, if we have the superiority in the field, they would be with great ease driven from that post, or starved in it.

This place, therefore (the only one which can secure the bridges,) being of little consequence to us, and of still less to them, we are of opinion that it would be very imprudent to fortify it at present, because the expense will be much greater than after we have troops embodied, who can perform much of the labour, and also for a reason mentioned in the report of our Committee.

You will take notice, gentlemen, that we have no ammunition, nor any Engineer – two most necessary implements of war, you will certainly acknowledge; the first we hope for from the endeavours of our merchants, the last you will take some care to procure, if to be had amongst you.

Be assured that we have the greatest willingness to obey the resolutions of the Grand Congress; and if in their wisdom they shall think fit to overrule the reasons which we have offered, doubt not that we shall use our utmost efforts to comply with their requisitions.

We are, gentlemen [&c.]

To the New York Delegates in Continental Congress.

Ordered, That a copy of this Letter be engrossed, signed by the President, and, together with a copy of the Report therein mentioned, and a copy of a Draught or Plan therein mentioned, be transmitted by the first conveyance.

The Report above mentioned is in the words following, to wit :

We, your Committee appointed to view the ground in the environs of King's Bridge, do most humbly report :

That in obedience to your commands we have examined the heights in that neighbourhood, taking such assistance as the shortness of the notice permitted us to procure, and are of opinion that a post (capable of containing three hundred men) erected on the high ground adjoining Mr. Hyatt's house, marked A in the annexed map, will answer the purpose proposed by the Continental Congress in their requisition, so far as the occupying that bridge can contribute to the keeping up a communication between the country and this city; for we beg leave to observe, that an enemy may land and seize on several posts in this island capable of interrupting, though not totally cutting off that communication held up as a point of so much importance by the Continental Congress. We are farther of opinion that this work should be constructed by troops when embodied and ready to occupy it, your Committee being humbly of opinion it would be the highest imprudence to erect a fortification before we have the means of defending it. By this mode of proceeding the expense will also be very much reduced. We believe that though there be no water immediately on the spot proposed for this post, yet means may be fallen upon to cover those who go to a well sunk in the adjoining low ground, near Mr. Hyatt's house, especially as we conceive this post is not supposed to sustain any regular attack, or of many hours' duration, without relief. We think fascines the cheapest and best materials to face this work, and that an abattis of fallen wood will contribute much to the security of the post. With respect to the particular form and dimensions, your Committee dare not venture (without the assistance of an Engineer) to recommend any particular plan to your consideration, and therefore pray your attention to provide a person of experience in this line of military science. All which is most humbly submitted.

By order of the Committee

James Van Cortlandt, Chairman

The Committee appointed for that purpose, reported a draft of a Report of additional Artificers and Stores to be forwarded to Ticonderoga. The same was read and agreed to, and is in the words and figures following, to wit :

The Committee having considered the requisition on this Colony made by Colonel B[enedict] Arnold, commandant at Ticonderoga, for provisions and stores &c., transmitted to this Congress by the Committee of Albany, and at the same time compared it with the list of supplies already ordered to be sent, do report, that the following additional stores &c., ought to be provided and sent: 10 men of the train of artillery: 12 ship carpenters and caulkers: 2 gunsmiths: 2 blacksmiths: 2 masons: 100 hatchets: 20 broadaxes: 50 spades: 50 hoes: the iron work for 4 gins and blocks; 8 falls for do, of 4½ inch rope: 1 coil 2½

inch rope, 1 coil 2 inch rope: 1 coil 1½ inch rope, 100 fathoms each: 4 pieces ravens duck: 40 pounds sewing twine: 10 dozen of sail and bolt rope needles: 1 dozen palms: 2 seines, 30 fathom long, capt 12 feet, and arms 6 feet deep, of coarse twine, meshes 1½ inch square: 2 dozen of nail hammers: 1 faggot of steel.

As to the oxen, carts, &c., mentioned in the said requisition, your Committee are of opinion that those can be procured in the neighbourhood of that post.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be made and delivered to Peter T. Curtenius, and that he be desired to obtain the said Artificers, Men, and Stores, and forward the same to Albany with all possible despatch.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1278–1280.

JOHN MCKESSON, SECRETARY OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONVENTION, TO
GEORGE CLINTON ¹

[Extract]

The only news I think of at present is, that the few soldiers who were in Barracks here were Yesterday [June 6] put on Board of the *Asia* man of war. A few men with little opposition stopped the Baggage Carts, made them return to Van Dyck's and kept two Chests of spare arms & three half Barrels of powder; they insisted that tho' they permitted the soldiers to go away armed, it would be criminal to let spare arms and ammunition be carried away – especially as arms were some time ago seized & sent on Board of a Frigate and powder taken out of their whaling sloops coming into the Harbour

John McKesson

[New York] Wednesday morn'g 5 o'clock June 7th, 1775.

1. Hugh Hastings, ed., *The Public Papers of George Clinton* (New York, 1899), I, 196. Hereafter cited as Hastings, ed., *Clinton Papers*.

JOHN ADAMS TO ELBRIDGE GERRY, MARBLEHEAD ¹

Dr Sir

Phyladelphia June [7] ² 1775

Mr [Christopher] Gadsden ³ of South Carolina whose Fame you must have heard, was in his younger Years, an officer, on board the Navy, and is well acquainted with the Fleet. – He has Several Times taken Pains to convince me that this Fleet is not so formidable to America, as we fear. – He Says, We can easily take their Sloops, schooners and Cutters, on board of whom are all their best Seamen, and with these We can easily take their large Ships, on board of whom are all their impress'd and discontented Men. He thinks, the Men would not fight on board the large ships with their fellow subjects, but would certainly kill their own officers. – He Says it is a different Thing, to fight the French or Spaniards from what it is to fight british Americans – in one Case, if taken Prisoners they must lie in Prison for Years, in the other obtain their Liberty and Happiness –

He thinks it of great Importance that Some Experiment should be made on the Cutters. – He is confident that We may get a Fleet of our own, at a cheap

Rate. – and this would give great Spirit to this Continent, as well as little Spirit to the Ministry.

1. FDRL.
2. The date is approximated. James Warren used the letter in the Massachusetts Provincial Congress sometime between June 12, 1775, when a committee appointed to consider a naval force reported, and June 20, when the matter was ordered “to subside for the present.” Warren wrote Adams on July 11, that he had seen the letter to Gerry containing Gadsden’s opinions, and had borrowed it in his vain effort to support the naval measure. As transit of letters between Philadelphia and Watertown consumed an average of ten days, the letter could not have been written later than June 7 to have been available to Warren. Adams wrote his wife, Abigail, on June 2 and June 6, and to Warren and to Isaac Smith on June 7. The letter to Gerry, hence, was probably written on this later date as well.
3. Christopher Gadsden (1724–1805) was a member of the Continental Congress from South Carolina.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NORTH CAROLINA, JUNE 7 [1775]”¹

We are much alarmed here with the intentions of Administration, that unless affairs take a turn in our favor very shortly, we shall expect the worst effort of its villainy – that of spiriting up an enemy among ourselves, from whose barbarity, if roused, the most dreadful consequences must follow. Our Governor has sent his family to New-York, and being greatly disgusted with the people of Newbern, has taken up his residence in Fort Johnston at the mouth of Cape Fear River, where he has chosen this as a place of retreat from popular complaints: Our brethren in the colonies may be assured that we never shall be bribed by the benefit of an exclusive trade, to desert the common cause.

1. *Pennsylvania Ledger*, July 15, 1775.

8 June

PETITION OF EDWARD PARRY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

To the Hon’ble Provincial Congress of the Massachusetts Bay convened and Assembled at Watertown

The Petition of Edward Parry Agent to the Contractor for Masts, Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner has been detained in his Occupation of shipping a small quantity of Masts and Lumber he was providing for his Majesty’s Dock yard in Nova Scotia on the beginning of May last at George Town in Kennebeck River by Lieut. Colo. Samuel Thompson of Brunswick, and two Bonded Securities required in the penal Sum of £2,000 Lawful money, payable to the Provincial Congress or the Heads of the Province for the time being that may be appointed by the People. The Condition of the Bond prevents me or any Person for or under me from removing certain Masts, Spars, Oak plank &c that are now under my Care in said River, and procured for the Service of his Majesty’s Navy, and that I should be kept here in safe Custody until I may be released by the Hon’ble the Provincial Congress’s orders – the particulars of which are fully explain’d in the said Bond, which I suppose Colo. Thompson has before this deliverd in to your Honors.

Your Petitioner humbly begs leave to represent to your Honors that his being detain'd here so long, at such a great distance from New Hampshire, the Place he has used to reside at, is of great detriment and damage to him, and that he daily suffers considerable loss in his private Concerns — Wherefore he humbly prays your Honors would take his Case into your wise Consideration, and that your Honors would compassionately be pleased to order him to be released and the Bond cancelled, or order such relief as you in your great Wisdom may think proper, and your Petitioner will ever pray &c

George Town Kennebec River June 8th. 1775

Edw^d Parry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 34.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1775

Cambridge, June 8.

Last Wednesday se'nnight [May 31] a Number of Provincials, under the Command of Col. [John] Robinson, made an Acquisition of about 500 Sheep and 30 Head of Cattle from Pettick's island.

And on Friday Night last [June 2] the Provincial Troops made another Acquisition of about 800 Sheep and Lambs from off Deer Island, together with a Number of Cattle.—Major [John] Greaton, who commanded this Party, also took a Barge belonging to one of the Men of War, together with 4 or 5 Prisoners.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Thursday, June 8, 1775

An account of the taking a Sloop which sailed from Boston for Annapolis [Royal] for Hay and other stores for the use of the Army at Boston, from the Committee of the Town of Arundel, was read; as also several Letters which were found on board said Sloop: ² Whereupon,

Resolved, That the thanks of this Congress be given to said Committee for their care and judicious conduct in this affair.

Afternoon

Ordered, That the Committee appointed to consider the expediency of establishing several small armed Vessels sit forthwith.

Ordered, That Major [John] Bliss, Major [Eleazer] Brooks, and Mr. Sayer, be a Committee to consider the Account of Captain [Elisha] Phelps; and to consider what sum is necessary to supply Captain Phelps with for transporting to Ticonderoga the Pork he has purchased for our Forces there, and bringing the Cannon from thence.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1396, 1397, from Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

2. The sloop *Polly*. See letters dated May 29 and 30, 1775, from William Shirreff, Deputy Quartermaster General of the British army in Boston.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER¹

[Boston] 8th. [June, 1775]

Three Officers of the 43d Regt. had today a very narrow and lucky escape, being out in a Boat sailing and not able to manage the Boat, the Wind drove 'em over to the Rebels shore who began firing on them; the Officers then had nothing but to swim for it as they found it impossible to keep off with the Boat, so they jumped over board and were swimming for the *Glasgow* Man of War, who as soon as they saw their situation sent a Boat to their assistance which picked 'em up, one was so much spent that he cou'd not have swam much longer. The Villains ashore kept all the time popping at 'em; but luckily did not hit either; they also kept firing at the Man of Wars Boat; the *Glasgow* fired a Cannon at them which made the Rascals run and hide themselves; as soon as the Gentlemen were landed a boat was sent with swivels in her and armed Men, to bring off the boat the Officers had quitted which had not reached the shore but was stuck on the Mud; the Rebels tried to prevent them by firing from their lurking places, but the Tars kept them aloof with the Swivels and brought the Boat off; while they were doing that the *Glasgow* seeing some Men near the House opposite let fly a shot among 'em to keep 'em from going down to the shore to fire at the Boat; they run off and did not shew themselves again.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 56, 57.

New York Journal, THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1775

New-York, June 8.

Sunday last [June 4] being the anniversary of his Majesty's birth day, when he entered the 38th year of his age, a royal salute was fired from the *Asia*, of 64 guns, in this harbour, commanded by George Vandeput, Esq; The crew then gave three cheers, which were answered by some of the inhabitants from the docks.¹ – There were, we hear no illuminations in the city on the anniversary of his Majesty's birth, except one house, the lights of which, it is said were, on the request of the spectators, presently withdrawn. Not that the people had the least disaffection to his Majesty's family or person; on the contrary, they approve his title, and are friends to monarchical government – But take every opportunity to shew their abhorrence of the public measures pursued during the greatest part of his reign, the permission of which is imputed to him.

A letter from St. Eustatia, dated the 15th May last, advises that, a vessel was just arrived there from Holland, with intelligence, that a strict prohibition was laid there on the exportation of all ammunition, even to their own islands in their own vessels; and by an order from the States General, no ammunition was to be sold in any of their islands or settlement to any inhabitant of North-America, or shipped on board any vessel bound there, under the penalty of 500 dollars, and the forfeiture of vessel and cargo; nor was any ammunition to be sold to any person, nor shipped on board any vessel, without exacting an oath, that it should

not directly or indirectly be transports to any part of North America [*America can return this favour in kind*]

*On Tuesday [June 6] the regular soldiers station'd in the barracks here about 50, embarked, on board boats belonging to the Asia man of war. The inhabitants took from them their spare arms, about 90, and some ammunition.*²

1. The observance of the King's birthday was noted to this point and in almost the same words by the *New York Gazette and the Weekly Mercury* on June 5, 1775. The *Journal's* editorializing from here on indicated clearly the different policies of these two New York papers.
2. Brackets and italics by the printer of the *Journal* in this particular instance.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Jovis 4 ho. P.M. June 8 1775

Thomas Wickham, having the care of Gardner's island, which is much exposed to having the stock taken off by armed vessels for the use of the King's troops at Boston, or elsewhere, and the said island being in a defenceless state, desires the advice of this board, whether he be permitted to take pay for said stock, in case it is not in his power to prevent their taking the same.

After some time spent in consideration thereof, it was deferred for further consideration.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong., I.*

MAJOR ISAAC HAMILTON TO CADWALLADER COLDEN, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK ¹

Sir

New York 8th June 1775

In pursuance of your advise and concurrence the day before yesterday was fixed upon for the embarkation of the five Companies of the Royal Irish Regiment under my Command, and from the resolutions of the Committee and Provencial Congress, that the troops while they behaved peaceably should not be molested either in their barracks or in their embarkation, we had no reason to expect interruption, much less insult; but notwithstanding the presence of the Mayor, Recorder, and other Magistrates, as well as several members of the Congress, who attended us on our march, the carts on which our baggage was loaded, were forcibly carried off by a body of people, the trunks and packages in violation of all faith broke open, their contents Examined, and upwards of 100 stands of arms together with several of the absent officer's fusils, are still detained from us, and this as we are credibly informed, by the advice of some of the Members of the Provencial Congress, and Committee, and which we are the more inclined to believe, from some of them personally assisting in stopping the carts – The interruption of our baggage occasioned us to make a halt in the street, when some of the apparent leaders among the people harranged our Men, and publicly encouraged them to forfeit their allegiance to which they had solemnly sworn, and desert the service they had engaged in – Had we been equally prone to Acts of violence, and which indeed we had sufficient provocation to justify us in, the consequences might have been fatal to many; but upon assurances from the

Magistrates that the Baggage should be restored to us, we chose rather to depend on these assurances than add to the confusion of the City. The private property of the officers has been restored to them, in the mutilated disorderly condition I have just mentioned, as well as the Regimental Cloathing but the arms and accoutrements are still in their possession, and I should deem myself very deficient in my duty, were I tacitly to pass over the high insult and outrage offered to his Majesty's troops, or the detention of his property; I have therefore taken the earliest opportunity of laying these circumstances before your Honor, and soliciting your Advice and assistance on the Occasion.

I have the honor to be Sir [&c.]

Isaac Hamilton, Major, To 18 or Royal Irish Regiment of Foot

1. *Colden Papers*, VII, 300, 301.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, June 8, 1775

The Congress being informed, that a major [Philip] Skeene, with some other officers,² were arrived last evening in a vessel from London, and were, with their papers, now in the custody of the troops of this city and that the said Major Skeene has been lately appointed Governor of the forts at Ticonderoga and Crown Point; that one of the officers a lieutenant has commission in the regular troops, now in the province of Quebec; and moreover, that the sd Skeene from his appointment had declared he had authority to raise a Regiment in America; from all this, apprehending that the said Skeene is a dangerous partizan of Administration, and that his papers may contain intelligence of Ministerial designs against America, very important to be known,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to examine in the presence of the sd Skeene and lieutenant, all the papers in their possession.

That this committee consist of Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. [Silas] Deane, and [Thomas] Mifflin:

That the sd committee be upon honor to conceal whatever of a private nature may come to their knowledge by such examination; and that they communicate, to this Congress, whatever may relate to the present dispute, between Great Britain and America.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 82.

2. Lieutenant Patrick Moncrieffe and a Mr. Lundy.

ELIPHALET DYER TO JOSEPH TRUMBULL ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia June the 8th 1775

Sir Last evening we had two ships arrived at this place from London . . . Majr [Philip] Skene the Elder came passenger in one of the Ships with a Commission as it is said to be Govr of Ticonderoga Crown Point and with Orders as he said on his passage to raise Ten Thousand Men to Subdue the Rebels &c. but how amazingly was he Chagrined when on the ships arival he was Immediately taken prisoner and his papers and letters taken into Custody and then to hear

that the New England people had taken his fort and Governmt and themselves had placed a Commander there but on second thought he seems to brave it out tolerably well. I think there are one or two more officers with him, believe only Lieuts, all under Guard in this City.

1. Joseph Trumbull Papers, No. 38, ConnSL.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO JOHN PRINGLE, PHILADELPHIA ¹

[Extract]

Baltimore the 8 June 1775

We think there will be a risque from the Man of War with those Articles you Mention ² but if you think you Can Manage that there is no other Danger, only let any Vessell you Send these goods round in run up here, before She Enters at annapolis, and the[y] can Savely be landed, as we have no [naval] Officer here.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Pork, flour and rice, which would be seized if intercepted at the Virginia Capes by H.M.S. *Fowey*.

WOOLSEY AND SALMON TO STEPHEN SKINNER, PERTH AMBOY ¹

[Baltimore] June 8 [1775]

We this Day Recd a few lines from Mr C[lement] Biddle Incloseing yours of the 4th Inst in which you write him of the Accident of our Schooner *Industry*. We Cannot help Blameing Capt [James] Green Very Much in Many Respects, but in nothing so much as in laveing the Vessell in the Situation She was in & Comeing to Philada, – however these Matters you must take no notice off but Endeavour to get him to Sea, as Soon & as Chape as possible and by all mains pay all his bills your self & Advance him no Money whatever only what you pay for the Vessell, as we are Sure he is not in want of any Matter but what you will se[e]. we Could wish that her Mainsail could be mended to Serve her home, unless he Carried it Away in keeping of[f] a Lee Shore, in that Case a new one would be proper & the old one Sold, at the Same time we would wish a proper Survey would be Made on the Vessell &c Also a proper protest of the Capt Mate &c of their proceedings, from the day the[y] Sailed from this untill her putting into your place, Setting forth the Cutting of his Cable in our Bay, his Getting Aground, which was the Cause of his being Leakey, and in what Manner he lost his Mainsail, whether by Carrying to get of[f] a Lee Shore or by the Vessell that Run on Bord of him At Sea, and also that you would have his Accts Surveys, & Protests properly Attested and send home to Mr Geo Darley of Dublin & send us a Coppy. & you may Either Value on us or Mr Clement Biddle for the Amt or we will Send you a bill of Ex of 60 Ds if you wd perfer that, & the Ex[change] is agreeable to us. we are thankfull to you for the Care you have Already taken & must beg your further Care in frugallity & Dispatching the Vessell & refer you to Mr Biddle for further Perticulars –

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *Magdalen*, HENRY COLINS,
COMMANDING ¹

June 1775

At Single Anchor Abreast of York Town

Thursday 8th at 5 A M the Earl of Dunmore and his family came on board,
at 7 weigh'd and came to Sail at 11 Anchord abreast of York
Town Saluted his Lordship on his Coming on board and Leav-
ing the Vessel with 13 Guns

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/3894.

ST. GEORGE TUCKER TO THOMAS JEFFERSON, A DELEGATE TO THE CONTINENTAL
CONGRESS FROM VIRGINIA ¹

Sir

Williamsburg June 8th: 1775.

I must apologize to you for the Liberty I take in addressing you as a Member of the General Congress, but the Importance of the Occasion I hope will excuse it. I shall therefore without further prelude proceed to the Occasion of this Letter.

The Island of Bermuda, by it's detached Situation, by the Number of it's Inhabitants, by its inconsiderable produce, and by the small progress made there in Manufactures, must be reduced to the most dreadful Calamities by the present Contest between Great Britain and the Colonies, should both parties demand a Compliance with their respective Measures. Utterly destitute of the Means of obtaining Provisions for their Support, except from the Continent; and altogether unable to procure Cloathing from any other Source than Great Britain, since the Island affords neither Materials, nor Manufacturers, it is altogether impossible for them to exist without the Assistance of both. Their Commerce with Great Britain, I apprehend does not amount to more than £20,000, Stg. per An: if so much. Their Remittances, having no produce of their own, are made either in Cash, Bills of Exchange, or Logwood and Mahogany which they procure at the Bay of Honduras; so that no Revenue arises to Great Britain from any Exports from thence. Their Commerce, therefore, is so trifling as to be utterly incapable of affecting the Trade of Great Britain in any Respect. Again, from America they are supplied with provisions, for their shipping, and, indeed, for the support of the whole Island for at least ten Months in the Year. These are procured, either in Exchange for Cash, or Salt, or else purchased by the hire of their Vessels, which have been Carriers for America and the West Indies from the first Settlement of the Island. The Inhabitants are a people, who, from their immediate Connection and frequent Intercourse with the Continent, have contracted an affection for this Country. They consider the Americans as Brethren, and their Souls are animated with the same generous Ardor for Liberty that prevails on the Continent; they are most Zealous Friends to the Cause of America, and would readily join with it, in any Measures to secure those inestimable privileges now contending for; in short, they consider the Cause as their own, and with pleasure behold every step that has been taken in support of it. Their Conduct, on a former occasion, by refusing to admit the Stamps in 1765, and obliging the Stamp Master to resign his office, I



Thomas Jefferson. By Mather Brown, 1786.

think must be considered as a proof of what I have here advanced. But so incapable are they of *acting* in Conjunction with America, on this Occasion, however ardently they might wish to do so, that a single Ship of War might cut off all Communication whatsoever with the Continent, and reduce the Island to the most horrid state of Distress, if once obnoxious to Great Britain. It is from this apprehension that they have not declared their most cordial Concurrence in the Measures of the Congress, and adopted them for their own Government; since such a step might involve above 12,000. people in the most irretrievable Distress. Such are the Motives which have restrained their Conduct hitherto. By Letters from some of the principal Gentlemen of the Island I think myself authorised to make this Declaration of their Sentiments, and, further, to add, that if the Congress will agree to supply them with provisions, they will with Chearfulness accede to any Restrictions they may think proper to impose. They will enter into the most solemn Engagements that no Commodities shall be reshipped from thence to any other place which the Congress may think proper to have no Commerce with. They will enter into an association against all sumptuary Articles, if it is demanded of them, and will agree to import nothing from Great Britain except the *absolute* Necessaries of Life. They will further engage to supply the Colonies with Salt from Turk's Island, Tortuga's, &c. in Exchange for those commodities they shall recieve from them. And, finally, will readily adopt any Measures which may be judged necessary for the Benefit of America, and will strenuously oppose whatsoever may make against it's Interest. If, therefore, the Congress will agree to supply them with provisions, I think I may venture to engage, that an Association, agreeable to what I have above stated, if required, will be entered into by the first of September, the Day when all Commerce with the rest of the British Dominions is to cease.²

Perhaps, Sir, such a Measure may be attended with mutual advantages to Bermuda and the Colonies. Of this I cannot pretend to determine, but beg leave to submit the following Queries to your Consideration.

Do any of the Acts of Trade and Navigation prohibit the reshipping and Exportation of any of the produce of the Colonies from those British American Islands into which they were imported, to those parts of Europe, or other foreign Markets to which they might be exported immediately from the Colonies?

If there is no such prohibition contained in any former Acts of parliament, does the restraining Bill, by Construction, amount to such prohibition?

May not those Commodities which are permitted to be exported to the Mediterranean, and other parts of Europe, except Great Britain and Ireland, by the Congress, be exported by the way of Bermuda, notwithstanding the restraining Bill, if, upon their entering into proper Engagements, the Congress should think proper to continue their Exports to that Island.

Would not such a Continuation of the Grain Trade be attended with the most happy and salutary Effects, and be the Means of enabling America to make a more lasting Resistance to parliamentary Measures?

I have ventured [to] throw together these few Hints, with a design of offering them to your Consideration as I understand you intend to join the American Congress soon. And if any thing I have here said should be the Means of pre-

vailing on you to offer your Interest with that august Body, in behalf of my wretched Country, I shall esteem it a peculiar Happiness of my Life to have taken this opportunity of subscribing myself, with the most unfeigned Esteem, Sir, [&c.]

St. George Tucker

1. Julian P. Boyd, ed., *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson* (Princeton, 1952), I, 167–169. Hereafter cited as Boyd, ed., *Jefferson Papers*.
2. Tucker was wrong in his date. The Continental Association specified September 10, 1775, not September 1, as the last day for exporting goods to Great Britain, Ireland, or the British West India Islands.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS, LONDON ¹

[Extract]

[Charleston] 8th June 1775

p Capt Lessley

You will be anxious to know our proceedings in Provincial Congress I shall inform you as fully as time will permit.

The Congress has sat daily from the first day of this Month; so diligent have we been that have I thought my Self fortunate by an adjournment for two or three Hours after Sitting about five in one Spot Some times I have not been relieved in Seven & an half ² – I wish I could add an Account of good fruits from so much Industry. . . .

We have ordered the Pilots not to board or bring in any Man of War or Transport Ship, What is to become of Lord Wm C[ampbell] & his Suite?

I argued our conduct would be ungrateful, inhuman & answer no other end but that of Shewing our ill temper – but the order was confirmed; His Lordship will certainly find a way into this Harbour without the aid of our pilots –

Qn? whether the Militia Should receive him agreeable to an order from the Lieutt Governor, at his Landing?—much altercation ensued without conclusion on the point – but if we agree to a Report now before us in which tis recommended that all the Militia Officers Should resign their Commissions, His Excellency will not have the Honour of Seing our Traind Bands as a first object. –

A Report that we Should immediately purchase & fit out as a Ship of War the *Marie Wilhelmina* to mount about 50 Guns in order to keep out any of His Majesties Ships of War (& as Some whispers went to Seize & take the *Tamar* now in port) & for the better defence of this Harbour & Town was considered the 5th when the debates were apparantly exhausted & the Qn? called for – two or three Members rose & requested to know the opinion of the Chairman – I declined Such interposition – nevertheless a violent advocate rose & dropped such expressions as produced a confused clamour & dialouge Some what Like the inclosed account of it ³ – when that Noise had Subsided in order to gratify the Members who had desired to know my Sentiments as well as to Speak them on so important a point & Shew that I would not be intimidated I did Speak nearly in the words following the dialogue – the Question was put & passed in the Negative by so great a Majority as all the difference between 11 Yeas & about 180 Nays – in consequence of that disappointment a long train of Armed Schooners, Fortifications, & the intended Blockade of the Channels into the Harbour, all the effects of Fear & Zeal in a deleriam, was postponed & Laid aside, –

We had Some days ago prohibited the exportation of Corn & yesterday forbid the further Shipping of Rice – all that remains in the Province is to be purchased & Stored for the public Service in different quarters of the Country upon a Supposition that no more than 3 or 4 Thousand Barrels are on hand but I am assured there are nearer Ten thousand – another Scheme of groundless Fears in Some & Interested views in others –

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–75, SCHS.
2. Laurens had been elected president of the Provincial Congress.
3. Not enclosed.

9 June

PROCLAMATION OF SIR GUY CARLETON, GOVERNOR OF CANADA ¹

By His Excellency Guy Carleton, Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over the Province of Quebec, and the territories depending thereon in America, Vice Admiral of the same, and Major General of his Majesties forces, commanding the Northern district &c &c –

Whereas a Rebellion prevails in many of His Majestys colonies in America, and particularly in some of the neighbouring ones; and whereas many of the said Rebels have, with an armed force, made invasions of late into this province, attacking and carrying away from thence a party of His Majesty's troops, together with a parcel of stores, and a vessel belonging to his Majesty, and are at present actually invading this province with arms in a Traitorous and hostile Manner, to the great terror of his Majesty's subjects, and in open defiance of his laws and government; falsely and maliciously giving out by themselves and their abettors, that the motives for their so doing are, to prevent the inhabitants of this province from being taxed and oppressed by government, together with divers other false and seditious reports, tending to inflame the minds of the people, and alienate them from his Majesty; to the end, therefore, that so treasonable an invasion may be soon defeated, that all such traitors, with their said abettors may be speedily brought to justice, and the public peace and tranquility of this province again restored, which the ordinary course of the civil law is at present unable to effect, I have thought fit to issue this Proclamation, hereby declaring that until the afore-said good purposes can be attained, I shall, in virtue of the powers and authority in me vested by his Majesty, execute Martial law and cause the same to be executed throughout this province, and to that end I shall order the Militia within the same to be forthwith raised; but as a sufficient number of Commissions to the several Officers thereof cannot be immediately made out, I shall in the mean time direct all those having any Militia Commissions from the Honorable Thomas Gage, the Honble James Murray, Ralph Barton, and Frederick Haldimand Esqr heretofore his Majesty's governors in this province; or either of them, to obey the same, and execute the powers therein mentioned, until they shall receive orders from me to the contrary: and I do accordingly in his Majesty's name require and Command all his subjects in this province, and others whom it may concern, on pain of disobedience, to be aiding and assisting to the said commissioned Officers, and others who are or may be commissioned by me, in the execution of their said Commissions for his Majesty's Service.

Given under my hand and seal of arms at Montreal, this 9th day of June, 1775, in the 15th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, defender of the faith, and so forth—

Guy Carleton

By His Excellencys Command H. T. Cramahe—

1. Mackenzie Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Friday, June 9, 1775

Ordered, That Captain [Isaac] Stone of Oakham, Deacon [John] Hovey, Colonel [James] Prescott, Colonel [Michael] Farley, and Colonel [Jonathan] Grout, be a Committee to consider what is proper to be done with the Prisoners brought to this place from Arundel

Afternoon

Ordered, That the Guard, who has in custody the Prisoners from Arundel be relieved by a Guard from the Town of Watertown.

Ordered, That the Papers exhibited to this Congress by Captain [Elisha] Phelps be returned to him by Major [John] Bliss.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

DEPOSITION OF SAMUEL SMITH, MASTER OF SLOOP *Polly* ¹

I the Subscriber Being of Lawful age Do Testify That Being in a Coasting Sloop [the *Polly*] Belonging to Arundel and on my Return from Plimouth was taken By a Cutter Belonging to Admiral Graves Squadron in Boston & carried in to that Port & their Detaind Several Days & Being Solliscited by Admiral Graves' Secretary to Enter into His majestys Service and knowing no other way wherein I Could Possibly make my Escape I Enterd into Sd Service to Go to Winsor in Nova Scotia for Hay & other things, and Haveing one Josiah Jones Put on Bord as factor. and Being Ready to Sail I Desird of the Capt of our Convoy Leave to Sail But He told me I must not Sail til to morrow att ten o:Clock as their was a Number other vessels in the same Employ & Should all Sail together I then Desird Leave [of] Mr Jones to Hall off into the Road & obtaind Leav it Being Dark & I Got Consent of our factor mr Jones to Sail I therefor Embracd the oppertunity & Emmediatly Saild for Arundel where I arrivd in about twenty four Ours and Deliverd up mr Jones & one Jonat Hicks Who was Intraduced on Board my Sloop By mr Jones But for what Purpos I cannot tell. and further Saith that Mr Jones Desird Me to oil and Clean the fire arms that was Put on Board to Defend our Selves as He Said the Rebels might attak us on our Passage

Watertown June 9th 1775

Samuel Smith

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 115.

IN CONGRESS, May 17, 1775.

RESOLVED, That all Exportations to Quebec, Nova-Scotia, the Island of St. John's, Newfoundland, Georgia, except the Parish of St. John's, and to East and West Florida, immediately cease; and that no Provisions of any Kind or other Necessaries be furnished to the British Fisheries on the American Coasts, until it be otherwise determined by the Congress.

May 29.

Resolved, That no Provisions or Necessaries of any Kind be exported to the Island of Nantucket, except from the Colony of *Massachusetts-Bay*; the Convention of which Colony is desired to take Measures for effectually providing the said Island, upon their Application to purchase the same, with as much Provision as shall be necessary for its internal Use, and no more.

The Congress deeming it of great Importance to North-America, that the British Fishery should not be furnished with Provisions from this Continent through Nantucket, earnestly recommend a vigilant Execution of this Resolve to all Committees.

A true Copy from the Minutes,

CHARLES THOMPSON, Sec'y.

The Provincial CONGRESS, Watertown, June 9, 1775.

THE foregoing Resolves of the Continental Congress being read, and considered—*Resolved*, That the same be forthwith Printed in Hand-Bills, (together with this Resolve) and dispersed in the several Sea-Port Towns in this Colony, that due Obedience may be paid the same—Further *Resolved*, That the Inhabitants of the Island of Nantucket, have liberty to purchase such Provisions as are necessary for the internal Use of the said Island, in any of the New-England Governments; *Provided nevertheless*, That no Provisions or necessaries of any Kind be exported to the said Island of Nantucket, without a Permit in Writing from the Committee of Safety of this Colony, or such Person or Persons as they shall appoint to give such Permit, expressing the Quantity so to be transported be first had and obtained; and that the same be exported from such Port only (in this Colony) as shall be express'd in the same Permit.

JOSEPH WARREN, President.

Attest.

SAMUEL FREEMAN, Sec'y.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Preston Boston] 9th [June, 1775]

The *Nautilus* sailed with seven Marines for completing the *Mercury* off New York, whose Captain was ordered upon his Arrival in Virginia to send either the *Otter* or *Magdalen* into the Delaware

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 107, 108, MassHS Transcript.

COLONEL ETHAN ALLEN TO THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

Honorable Gentlemen,

Crown Point, June 9, 1775

I am informed by Colonel [James] Easton that you are well satisfied with the economy and enterprising spirit of a number of the Sons of Liberty, who, animated with the glorious example of the brave action at Concord, were inspired to make those acquisitions to the United Colonies of which your Honours have received intelligence, viz: the sovereignty of Lake Champlain, and the fortresses thereon, with an armed sloop and all the boats on the lake, and also took into possession a schooner, which was the property of Major [Philip] Skene, and furnished it out for war. These armed vessels are at present abundantly sufficient to command the lake. The making these acquisitions has greatly attached the Canadians, and more especially the Indians, to our interest. They have no personal prejudice or controversy with the United Colonies, but act upon political principles, and consequently are inclined to fall in with the strongest side. At present ours has the appearance of it, as there are at present but about seven hundred regular Troops in all the different Posts in Canada. Add to this the consideration of the imperious and haughty conduct of the Troops which has much alienated the affections of both the Canadians and Indians from them. Probably there may soon be more Troops from England sent there, but at present you may rely on it that Canada is in a weak, and almost helpless condition. Two or three thousand men, conducted by intrepid commanders would at this juncture make a conquest of the Ministerial party in Canada, with such additional numbers as may be supposed to vie with the re-inforcements that may be sent from England. Such a plan would make a diversion in favour of the Massachusetts Bay, who have been too much burdened with the calamity that should be more general, as all partake of the salutary effects of their merit and valour in the defence of the liberties of America. There would, furthermore, be this unspeakable advantage in directing the war into Canada, that it would unite and confirm the Canadians and Indians in our interest; and as England can spare but a certain number of her Troops, therefore the more she needs to defend her interest in Canada, which at present is languid and weak, the less she can send to Boston, or any other part of the Continent. By gaining the sovereignty of Canada, would intercept the design of the Quebec Bill, and greatly discourage the Ministry who dote on the efficacy of it.

I would to God America would exert herself in proportion to the indignity offered her by a tyrannical Ministry. She might mount on eagle's wings to glory. Fame is now hovering over her head. A vast Continent must either sink to bondage, ignominy and exquisite horror, or rise triumphant above the shackles of tyranny to immortal fame.

I hope, Gentlemen, you will use your influence in forwarding men, provisions and every article for the Army that may be thought necessary. Blankets and provisions are scarce. I might have added the article of powder. It ought to be observed that the Colonies must first help their friends in Canada, and then it will be in their power to help them again.

I subscribe myself your Honours [&c.]

Ethan Allen

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Veneris, 9 ho. A.M. June 9th, 1775.

Mr. [Isaac] Sears informed this Congress that the following small quantities of gunpowder, formerly delivered out of the magazines in this city for sale, yet remain unsold, to wit: One hundred weight in the care of Messrs. Woodward & Kipp; one hundred weight in the care of Jeremiah Platt; about twenty pounds in the care of Messrs. Berrian and Fish, 100 lb. of damaged powder in the care of Comfort Sands, and 50 lb. do. in the care of Thomas Hazard.

Ordered, That these several gentlemen who have the care of the said Powder, be respectively directed to keep the whole now in their custody until the farther order of this Congress.

Ordered, That all the damaged Powder now in this City, and also the damaged Powder at Ticonderoga and Crown Point, be sent to the Powder Mill near Hudson's River, in Rhynebeck Precinct, to be remanufactured.

1. N.Y. Prov. Cong., I, 36.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

June 1775 Moored in York River [Virginia]

Friday 9 at 4 A M kept the Lead going from 9 to 7 fathom water . . . Weighed at 11 & kept running up to York. at ½ past 1 P M came too with the Best Bower off York Town found riding here his Majesty's Ship *Fowey & Magdalen* Schooner, at Veerd away and moored wt Cable each way

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU, COMMANDING ¹

June 1775 York S S W Gloucester Point No off shore ½ Mile

Friday 9 Moderate breezes at 1 P M anchored here his Majesty's sloop *Otter*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 1775

Williamsburg June 9.

EARLY yesterday morning the Right Hon. the EARL of DUNMORE, with his LADY and FAMILY, Capt. EDWARD FOY, and some of his Lordship's

domesticks, left this city and are gone on board the *Fowey* man of war, lying at York town. His Lordship's reasons for this precipitate retreat are contained in the following message, which he left behind him, and was the same day communicated to the Hon. the House of Burgesses; reasons altogether founded upon the grossest misrepresentations his Lordship has received, this city and neighbourhood, nay the whole country, we may safely affirm, being in as orderly a state (unless training to arms be deemed a contrary behaviour, well known, however, to be a very necessary qualification, when danger threatens) as ever they have been, since the first settlement of the colony.

The *Otter* sloop of war, Capt. Morris [*sic*, Squire], is arrived in Hampton road, from Boston; we hear, to relieve his Majesty's ship *Fowey*.

10 June

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Watertown] Saturday June 10th 1775

The Committee appointed to consider what is proper to be done with the Prisoners brought from Arundel, reported as follows, viz.

The Committee appointed to examine the persons and papers sent this Congress by the Committee of the Town of Arundel have attended that service and after due perusal of said Papers Josiah Jones & Jonathan Hicks therein referred to were brought before them and said Jones in his defence says he had no concern with the sloop *Polly* otherways than as a passenger in her to Nova Scotia. – notwithstanding which it appears clearly to this Committee, by sd Papers as also by the evidence of Capt [Samuel] Smith Master herewith transmitted, that sd Jones went on board sd Sloop as supercargo in the service of Gen. [Thomas] Gage to bring hay & other articles to Boston to supply our enemies. – We find by sd Jones's account of himself that he went to Boston soon after the memorable Lexington Battle of the 19 of April last in company with John Ruggles of Hardwick who was ordered by a Committee of the said Town of Hardwick and that said Jones was knowing to the proceedings of sd Committee against sd Ruggles before they set out together from Weston to take refuge in Boston, that they left the common road & went in the woods & difficult places to pass the Town of Roxbury. – This Committee upon the whole have not the least reason to doubt of sd Jones's being a Notorious enemy to his Country & of his having been employed in the actual imployment of our enemies against the Just liberties of the people therefore beg leave to report the following Order. –

In Provincial Congress 10 June 1775

Ordered that Josiah Jones taken from the sloop *Polly* be sent with a sufficient guard to the Town of Concord in the County of Midsx and committed to the common Goal there to remain until the further Order of Congress or house of Representatives of this Colony.

Said Jonathan Hicks in his defence says that since the public disputes respecting the liberties of the Country he has not liked the part that has been acted,

in many respects, on either side therefore could not see his way clear to join with any –

Upon examination the Committee find by evidence that at Gardnerstown, while he lived there, he expressed himself highly against the Committee of correspondence &c calling them rebels & using other oprobious language against the people who appeared for liberty and endeavoured to hinder their unity That also while he the said Hicks lived at Plymouth he was esteemed by the good people there inimical to the liberties of his Country by his general conduct and that at certain times he appeared very high and once drew his sword or spear upon certain persons.

Said Hicks upon the whole owns his general conduct has been such as the people for liberty call a Tory, but still he says he is against the oppressive Acts. sd Hicks confesses that the evening after the Battle of Lexington aforesaid he left Plymouth & took shelter with the troops at Marshfield not thinking himself safe in the Country, that he went with them to Boston & there remained untill he went on board the Sloop *Polly* with Jones & says he designed for Hallifax there to tarry if he could find business in order to be out of the noise. –

Capt Smith Master, of sd Sloop can give no Account of Hick's business on board, all he can say is, he in general appeared inimical calling the liberty People rebels &c – The Committee therefore beg leave to report the following order

In Provincial Congress, Watertown, June 10, 1775

Ordered that Jonathan Hicks taken from the sloop *Polly* be sent with a sufficient Guard to the Town of Concord in the County of Middlesex & committed to the common Goal there to remain untill the further orders of Congress or house of Representatives of this Colony. –

Ordered, that the Hon. Mr. Sever, Colonel Otis, and Mr. Davis, be added to the Committee who were appointed to consider the expediency of establishing a number of Armed Vessels for the protection of the sea-coasts.

Resolved – That the further Consideration of the Report relative to the establishment of Armed Vessels be put off to 3 oClock in the afternoon, and that the Committee of Safety and Committee of Supplies be notified of this Resolve –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

“REMARKS &CA. ONBOARD THE *Somerset*”¹

June 1775

Moored in Boston Harbour

Saturday 10 A M fired one 18 Pr and one 9 Pr shotted, at the Rebels, on Noddle Island, who attempted to set fire to some Stores there; . . .

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/906.

BENJAMIN GREENLEAF TO DR. JOSEPH WARREN¹

Sir –

Boston June 10th: 1775

A Schooner belonging to the Ewings, sails this Night, for Salem and fm thence, to New-Providence in Order, to fetch Fruit & Turtle for the army. She

is Commanded by one Mr. Hammer, But in order to deceive the Publick, one Mr Thomson of Medford a reffuge in town, has the Name of Chartering the Vessel; Thomson himself has Confessed it, to a friend, and that friend informd me, – Now, Sir, if you send to Salem you can frustrate their design –

From one that is happy in defeating such designs and your Very Humble Sert

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 343.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM BARRON TO CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN ¹

Sir,

Boston, June the 10, 1775

This is to inform you of my saife arivel hear on the 6 and find by Mr. [Alexander] Brimer ² that the ship will be dischargd hear, which the Genarle sais he will give all the dispatch he can. But I have not discharged one Barrel yet and I dont know the time set for that are in great confusion hear. Mr. Brimyer tells me that there will be no fair of a freight at Quebeck which I shall endeavor to get the high's freight to. it is impossible Sir for me to inform you aney thing consarning the setivation of this unhappy place, for every thing is kep so silent and the town so well garde with soldiers, that they will not let you go aney way except just in the middel of the town. Mr. Brimyer promises to get me all the Despatch that is in power. I have nothing mor at present Sir, but shall right again in a few days by Capt. Webster, and I hop by that time I shall be better able to inform you abough matters, and remain, &c.

William Barron

1. NHS.

2. Alexander Brymer, agent of Robert Grant of London, contractor for victualling the British fleet in American waters.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1775

Providence, June 10.

Sunday last [June 4] the schooner *Pelican*, Capt. Tucker, arrived at Marblehead from London in Ballast, and brought Dispatches for General [Thomas] Gage and Admiral [Samuel] Greaves which were immediately secured by the Committee of that place and sent to the Provincial Congress at Watertown – The contents of them have not yet transpired.

“REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*” ¹

June 1775

Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour

Saturdy 10 P M. Stopt the Sloop *Molly* Jno Leuther Master from Virginia with Corn and Flour

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

COLONEL ETHAN ALLEN AND OTHERS TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS,
PHILADELPHIA ¹

Crown Point, June 10, 1775

Colonel Ethan Allen; Major Samuel Elmore, of the Connecticut Farms; Colonel James Easton, of Pittsfield; Captain Seth Warner; Captain Hezekiah Bald-

ing, Captain Ebenezer Marvin, Captain Remember Baker, Captain George White; Captain James Noble, commandant at this place; Captain Amos Chapple; Captain Wait Hopkins; Captain Joseph McCracken; Captain John Grand; Captain Barnabus Barnum; Captain James Wills; Lieutenant Ira Allen; Lieutenant Oliver Parmerly; Isaac Hitchcock, Commissary; Stephen Bay, clerk to Major Elmore.

Honoured Sirs: We, whose names are prefixed above, do in Council approve of and nominate Colonel Ethan Allen, Captain Seth Warner, and Captain Remember Baker, to meet you in Congress, to consult and have your advice upon this move, which we have understood that you have approved; ² we are now in possession of Ticonderoga and Crown Point. And this day, at five o'clock, our armed sloop and schooners arrived here and furnished us with intelligence, that about three hundred of the Regular forces were at St. John's, fortifying and intrenching upon the Grants near this place. We think it might be practicable, in case of emergency, to raise about five hundred men, in case (as they are poor) of encouragement. Colonel Allen has behaved, in this affair, very singularly remarkable for his courage, and must, in duty, recommend him to you and the whole Continent.

A number of gentlemen, among whom were Major Elmore of Connecticut, and Colonel Easton, of Pittsfield, contributed, as a present, to a number of Indians of the Caughnawagas and Captain Ninham, of Stockbridge, largely out of their own pockets, who ask no fee nor reward; it was given upon their assurance of friendship. The majority of us have seen the marks of his abuse that he had received at St. John's from the Regulars; they assure us (and we believe that the Indians will meddle in no way) that they understand this affair to be a family dispute

Samuel Elmore, President

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 957, 958.

2. See Journal of the Continental Congress, June 23, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Saturnii, 9 ho., June 10th, 1775.

The Mayor of the City of New-York, attending at the door, was called in, and informed the Congress that application had been made to him respecting some arms lately taken out of the baggage carts of the troops, lately embarking from this city; – and he delivered a letter from his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to him on that subject, which was read – and thereupon, Mr. [Gouverneur] Morris moved (and was seconded by Mr. [Isaac] Low) in the words following, to wit:

I move that the arms and military accoutrements taken from His Majesty's troops on Tuesday last [June 6] be restored; and for that purpose that a resolve of the Congress be made as follows:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Congress that every inhabitant of this Colony who is possessed of any of the said arms and accoutrements, should im-

mediately deliver them to the Mayor of New-York; and that a committee be appointed to see that this resolve be complied with.

And debates arising on the said motion, and the question being put thereon, it was carried in the affirmative . . .

Ordered, That Mr. Isaac Roosevelt, Mr. John DeLancey, and Mr. John Marston, be a committee to see this resolution complied with.

Ordered, That a copy of this resolve be delivered to the Mayor of the city of New York.

Colonel [James] Clinton and Mr. [Christopher] Tappen who were a committee to examine the banks of Hudson's river through the Highlands, and report the most proper place for erecting one or more fortifications, and an estimate of the expense of erecting the same, delivered in their report, with a map or plan of the said river through the Highlands, which report was read.

Ordered, That the said report lay for the perusal and farther consideration of the members of this Congress, and that a copy of the said report, and of the said map or plan of Hudson's River, together with a letter on that subject, to accompany the same, be forwarded to the Delegates from this Colony at the Continental Congress; and that Colo. Clinton and Mr. Tappen be a committee to prepare and report a draft of such letter.

This Congress having this morning received intimations that provisions were lading on board of a vessel, whereof one Coffin is master, for the use of the army and navy at Boston, a draft of a letter to the Delegates from this Colony at the Continental Congress, on the subject, being prepared, was read and approved of. . . .

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, signed by the President, and sent by the first conveyance.²

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the case of Robert and John Murray and the memorial of Robert and John Murray, on the subject of their breach of the association of the late Continental Congress, and the several papers annexed to it, whereby they pray to be restored to their former commercial privileges, being read, on a Reference thereof to us by the Continental Congress and it appearing that they, the said Robert and John Murray, have published a printed handbill expressing their Contrition for their said offence and their resolution for the future strictly to adhere to the said association and to the further orders of the Continental Congress, the Provincial Congress of this Colony, and the general committee of Association for the city and county, with a saving for the said Robert (who is one of the people called Quakers) as to his religious principles; and they have voluntarily paid the expense that accrued for boat hire and otherwise, in the attendance of the committee of observation for the purpose of preventing any goods from being landed from on board the Ship *Beulah*; and they having also by letter under their hands, requested the committee of Elizabeth Town in New Jersey to keep in their custody, at the costs and risque of them, the said ship contrary to the said association until two vessels shall arrive from London with Goods into this Colony, after a general importation from Great Britain to the Colonies shall take place.

Resolved, therefore That the said Robert and John Murray shall be and they are hereby fully restored to their commercial privileges and declared to be entitled to the forgiveness of the public.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 37, 38.

2. See Peter VanBrugh Livingston's letter of this date.

PETER VANBRUGH LIVINGSTON, PRESIDENT OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK, TO THE NEW YORK DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen, In Provincial Congress N. York June 10th 1775

A Certain Captain Coffin being suspected of taking on board his Vessell Provisions for the Army and Navy at Boston, tho' consigned to persons in Rhode Island, We have thought proper to delay his Voyage until we have the Sentiments of the General Congress on the Subject, Our reason of Suspicion is this, that it hath been intimated to us that Messrs Lopez and Roam ² to whom great part of the Cargo is consigned are commissioned to supply those Articles to the Army and Navy, which is done as is alledg'd by suffering Vessells, which Contain Provisions to lie in the Harbour unladen, untill seiz'd by a Ship of War according to Agreement for that purpose –

We should have made enquiry and Order in the premisses, but that One of our Sister Colonies being Concern'd it might tend to create divisions amongst us at a time when unanimity is so necessary to the public Safety.³ We are Gent. [&c.]

P. vB. Livingston, Presid^t

1. President's Letter Book, III, LC.

2. Aaron Lopez and George Rome, the latter an avowed Tory.

3. For action upon this letter, see Journal of the Continental Congress, June 14 and 15, 1775.

CHARLES MURRAY TO HUGH GAINES ¹

Mr. Gaine.

New York, 10th June, 1775

As there have been some gross Misrepresentations respecting the Stores that were taken out of my Vessel, I think it necessary before my Departure, to set that Matter before the Public in a right Point of View.² Upon my arrival here I had some Swivel Guns and Powder on board, which Capt [James] Montague, Commander of his Majesty's Ship the *King's Fisher*, thought proper to take from me, at the same Time giving me Assurance, that upon my being ready to sail they should be punctually restored to me again. I have now the Satisfaction to assure the Public, that agreeable to Promise they have been faithfully returned to me, and I am happy in the Opportunity of doing this public Justice to Capt. Montague's Character, which might have received some Injury from the Manner in which this Matter has been misrepresented. He behaved to me in every Respect like a Gentleman. I am &c.

Charles Murray

1. *New York Gazette*, June 12, 1775.

2. See the *New York Journal*, May 18, 1775.

SAMUEL ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia, June 10, 1775

Every Step is taking here for the procuring of Gunpowder from abroad and setting up the Manufacture of it in America and I believe they will be successful.

Mr. [Thomas] Mifflin assures me that large Quantities are expected in a few Weeks in this place and 200 Barrels every hour.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters, Being Chiefly a Correspondence Among John Adams, Samuel Adams, and James Warren, 1743-1814* (Boston, 1917-25) I, 55. Hereafter cited as *Warren-Adams Letters*.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, June 10, 1775

The committee for examining governor [Philip] Skene's letters, &c. having communicated to Congress what they found relative to the dispute between Great Britain and these Colonies;

Resolved, That Govr Skene, lieutenant [Patrick] Moncrieffe, and Mr. Lundy be released from their present confinement, and suffered to go at large any where within eight miles of this city, between Delaware and Schuylkill, on their parole of honor, not to pass those limits, and that they will hold no correspondence with any person whatsoever, on any political subject.

That Mr. [Christopher] Gadsden be added to the committee for examining gov'r Skene's papers, and that said committee have it in charge to execute the above resolve. they enlarge them upon their parole agreeable to the above resolve.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 86.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1775" ¹

On board Captain McCulloch,² from London, came passenger Major [Philip] Skene, Governor of Crown Point, with four other officers belonging to the regiments at Boston; they are now under a strong guard of our militia; which was occasioned by their conduct; for a few days before the Captain made the land, he spoke with a vessel, who informed them of the late battle at Boston; upon which Major Skene and the other officers endeavoured to take the command of the vessel, in order to proceed immediately to Boston, but were overpowered by the Captain and crew. The Captain put them into confinement; and having represented them to the Committee as mutineers, they will be tried for it shortly.

1. *Morning Chronicle and London Advertiser*, July 22, 1775.

2. Captain William McCullough of the ship *Prosperity*.

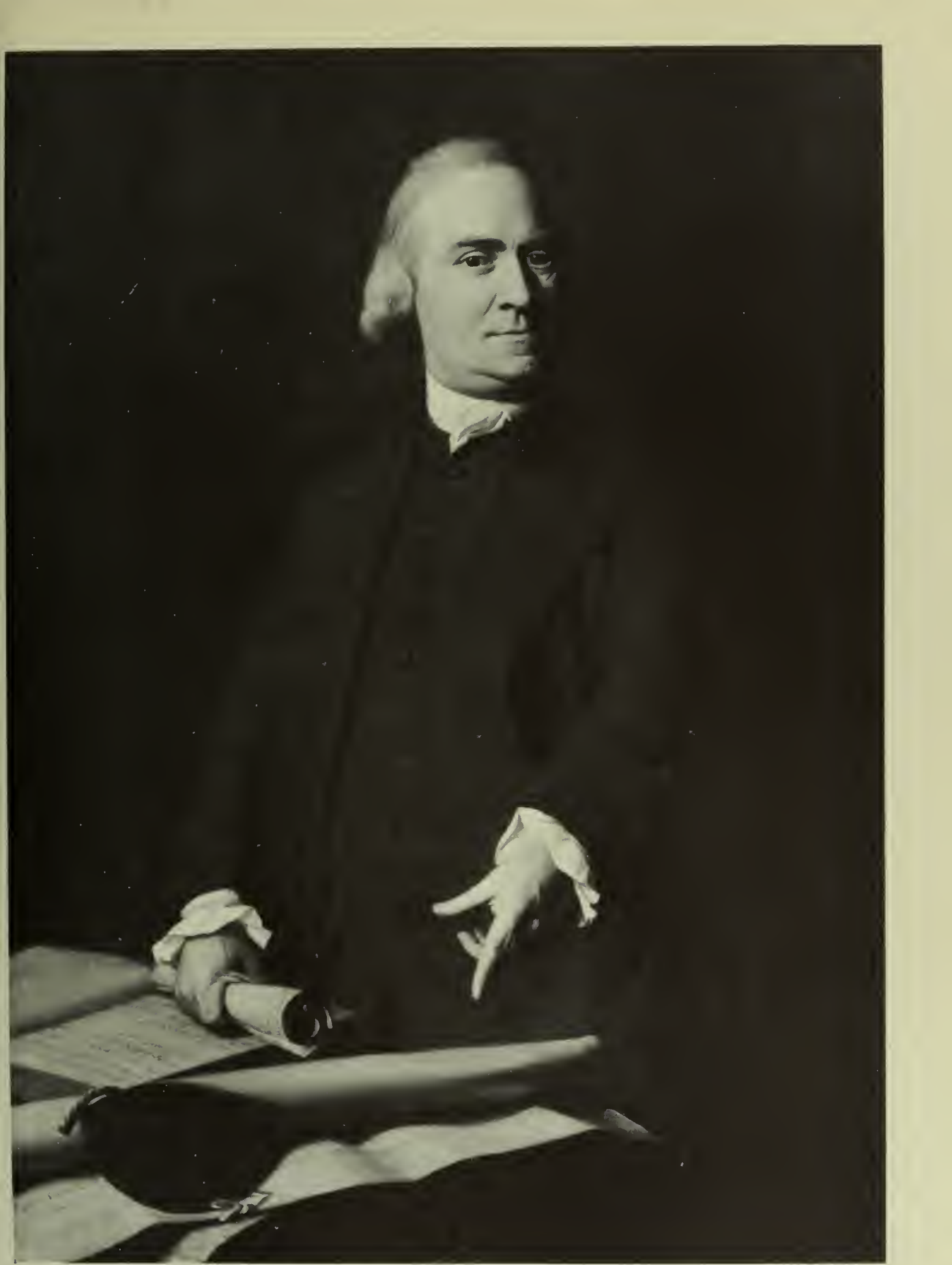
JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

June 1775

Moored in York River [Virginia]

Saturday 10 at 11 A M his Excellency the Earl of Dunmore came on board.
Saluted him with 15 Guns the same on his leaving her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.



Samuel Adams. By John S. Copley, 1772.

LORD DUNMORE TO THE VIRGINIA ASSEMBLY ¹

Gentlemen of the Council, Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses,

In answer to your joint address, presented by your deputies yesterday, I acquaint you, that it appears to me the commotions among the people, and their menaces and threats (an enumeration of which I forbear, out of tenderness) have been of such public notoriety, that you must suppose many of his Majesty's subjects in this colony, whether they meditated or not, have at least manifested, such an inveteracy as justifies my suspicion that they would not hesitate to commit a crime, which, horrid and atrocious as it is, I had just ground to apprehend. And when the disposition which the House of Burgesses have shewn towards me, the returns they have made to the respect and civility which I have been forward to offer to them, the countenance they have given to the violent and disorderly proceedings of the people, his Majesty's magazine having been forced and rifled in the presence of some of the members of the House of Burgesses, and, by the information of the committee the House appointed to inspect the magazine, no other endeavours have been used than to prevail on the people to return the arms taken out, but not to commit the persons in whose possession they were found, in order that they might be brought to the punishment due to so heinous an offence, no less against the peace and good order of the country than the dignity and authority of the King; when a body of men assembled in the city of Williamsburg, not only to the knowledge, but with the approbation of every body, for the avowed purpose of attacking a party of the King's forces, which, without the least foundation, it was reported were marching to my protection, and which, if true, ought to have been approved and aided, not opposed and insulted, by all good and loyal subjects; when especially the House of Burgesses, or a committee of the House (which is the same) has ventured upon a step fraught with the most alarming consequences, in ordering and appointing guards, without even consulting me, to mount in the city of Williamsburg, as is pretended, to protect the magazine, but which may well be doubted, as there then remained nothing therein which required being guarded; but if otherwise, this step nevertheless shows a design to usurp the executive power, which, if it be persisted in, subverts the constitution: I say, when these circumstances are duly considered, I may submit it to your own judgment whether I could reasonably expect any good effect from communicating the ground of my uneasiness to you.

But as you are pleased, Gentlemen, now to assure me, that you will cheerfully concur in any measure that may be proposed proper for the security of myself and family, I leave to your own consideration whether that can be effected any otherwise than by reinstating me in the full powers of my office, as his Majesty's representative, by opening the courts of justice, and restoring the energy of the laws, which is all the security requisite for all parties; by disarming all independent companies, or other bodies of men raised and acting in defiance of lawful authority, and by obliging those who have taken any of his Majesty's publick store of arms to deliver them up immediately; and, what is not less essential than any thing, by your own example, and every means, in your power, abolishing that spirit of persecution, which, to the disgrace of humanity, now reigns, and pursues with

menaces and acts of oppression, all persons who differ from the multitude in political opinion, or are attached from principles and duty to the service of their King and government; by which means the deluded people never hearing but the disfigured side of a story, their minds are continually kept in that ferment which subjects them for ever to be imposed upon, and leads to the commission of any desperate act, and endangers the general safety. For the more speedy accomplishment of these ends, and the great object and necessary business of the sessions, I shall have no objection to your adjourning to the town of York, where I will meet you, and remain with you till your business be finished.

With respect to your entreaty that I should return to the palace, as the most likely means of quieting the minds of the people, I must represent to you, that, unless there be among you a sincere and active desire to seize this opportunity, now offered to you by Parliament, of establishing the freedom of your country upon a fixed and known foundation, and of uniting yourselves with your fellow subjects of Great Britain in one common bond of interest, and mutual assistance, my return to Williamsburg would be as fruitless to the people, as, possibly, it might be dangerous to myself. But if your proceedings manifest that happy disposition, which is to be desired ardently by every good friend to this as well as the mother country, I assure you, in the warmth of my heart, that I will return, with the greatest joy, and shall consider it as the most fortunate event of my life if you give me an opportunity to be an instrument of promoting your happiness, and a mediator between you and the supreme authority, to obtain for you every explanation of your doubts, and the fullest conviction of the sincerity of their desire to confirm to you the undisturbed enjoyment of your rights and liberty; and I shall be well pleased, by bringing my family back again, that you should have such a pledge of my attachment to this country, and of my wishes to cultivate a close and lasting intimacy with the inhabitants.

June 10, 1775.

DUNMORE.

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, June 17, 1775, with the letter headed by the editorial comment: "The Governour's answer to the joint address of the Hon. the Council and the House of Burgesses, in consequence of the message which his Excellency left behind him, upon his retreat on board the *Fowey* man of war."

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN HENRY BRYNE, HIS MAJESTY'S
SLOOP *Pomona* ¹

By James Young Esqr Vice Admiral of the Red &c.

Vice Admiral [William] Parry, having delivered me an Anonymous Letter he had just received from St Croix dated the 10th May 1775, (a Copy of which is annexed) acquainting him that a Combination is between that Place and the British Colonies of America, and that He (the writer) was informed they had shipped from that Place to Norfolk in Virginia 42 Barrels of Gun Powder and several pieces of Cannon, and had ready for shipping 36 Barrels of Gun Powder more and eight pieces of Cannon, in consequence of which information

You are hereby required and directed forthwith to Complete the Provisions Wood and Water of his Majesty's Sloop *Pomona* under your Command to Eight Weeks, and then immediately proceed with her and Cruise off the Island St

Croix, and there intercept and Seize such British or Foreign Ships as you may meet with and have sufficient Reason to believe they are employed in carrying on the above very pernicious illicit Trade; and bring the same to me to this Harbour to be proceeded against in the Court of Vice Admiralty as transgressing the Laws of Trade and Navigation; and for your further Government herein you are strictly required and directed to take particular care that his Majesty's intention with respect to the Examining and seizing Foreign Ships and Vessels under such circumstances as are described in Lord Rochford's Letters to the Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty Dated the 26 January and the 20 February last, and are particularly set forth in my General Order marked No 5 to you Dated the 9th Instant ² be punctually complied with:

You are to remain on this Service till the 20th July and are then to return to this Harbour for further Orders: you are by every opportunity to transmit me an Account of the State and Condition of his Majesty's Sloop under your Command, together with such intelligence as you may receive; which you may judge proper for my knowledge: and in case you should gain any intelligence that you think I ought to be made immediately acquainted with, you are then to make the best of your way with such intelligence to this Harbour; or whatever Island you shall hear of my being at, and at the expiration of your Cruise, you are to deliver me a Journal of your proceedings. For which this shall be your Order.

Given under my Hand on board the *Portland*, in English Harbour Antigua the 10th June 1775

Jam^s Young.

By Command of the Admiral Geo: Lawford

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2. Lord Rochford's letters, based upon reports of illicit trade between St. Eustatia and the British Colonies in America, directed that foreign ships suspected of carrying arms or ammunition should be examined only within two or three miles of land and not on the high seas.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir *Portland* at English Harbour Island of Antigua 10th June 1775

Please to acquaint my Lords Commissrs, [of] the Admiralty that I arrived at this place in His Maj[ts Shi]p *Portland* (with the *Pomona* Sloop in Company) the [1st in]stant, and have taken Command of his Majesty's Ships [&] Vessels in these Seas: And shall forthwith put in execution their Lordships Orders and Instructions to me, [da]ted the 15th April last; likewise such unexecuted and [St]anding Orders as have been delivered to me by Vice Admiral [William] Parry; who Sails for England in the *Chatham* [to]morrow; with the *Favorite* Sloop under His Command.

The inclosed is Copy of an Anonymous Letter, de[li]vered me by Vice Admiral Parry, which He informs [me] he had just received; ² and I have transmitted it herewith for their Lordships information: and I [req]uest you will further acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that I shall immedi[ate]ly Order Captain [Henry] Brine of the *Pomona* Sloop [to] proceed & Cruize off the Island St Croix to look for said Vessels; and Act therein, agreeable to His Majesty's Intentions on that head; Signified by Lord Rochfords Letter of the 20th

February last, and [co]mmunicated to me in their Lordships Orders of the 15th April last.

I have likewise inclosed herewith the St[ate] and Condition of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels under my Command. I am Sir [&c.] Jam^s Young

[Endorsed] 15 July Send Ent. & copy of the enclosed Lr to the Earl of Rochford for H.M. inform.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2. See letter of G.C. to Parry, St. Croix, May 10th 1775.

11 June (Sunday)

“PILOT NATHANIEL GODFREY'S REPORT OF ACTION BETWEEN THE SCHOONER *Margueritta* AND THE REBELS AT MACHIAS”¹

(Copy)

June 11th [1775]

Laying in Mechias River, about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a Mile below the Falls, to protect two Sloops belonging to Mr. [Ichabod] Jones Mercht. one laying at the Falls, the other $\frac{1}{2}$ a Mile below us, Mr. [James] Moore and the other Officer being ashore at the Meeting House, hearing a Bustle looked out of the Window & saw a Number of People Armed making towards the House, they immediately jumped out, & made their escape in a Boat sent from the Schooner, before their pursuers (who were very numerous) came up with them. A Party immediately went to the Sloop which lay'd at the Falls & plundered her, then assembled to the Number of One hundred within hail of the Schooner, & demanded her to strike to the Sons of Liberty; Mr. Moore enquired what they wanted, was answered Mr. Jones, whom they said was onboard the Schooner. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 8 o'Clock in the Evening Mr. Moore thought proper to weigh Anchor and drop down towards the Sloop which lay'd below him; which they discovering made themselves Masters of her, & ran her ashore. Mr. Moore then anchored within Fifteen Yards, with an Intent to retake her, & get her off; he was hailed on Shore by the Rebels, once more desiring him to strike to the Sons of Liberty, threatening him with Death if he resisted, upon Mr. Moore's replying he was not ready yet, they fired a Volley of small Arms, which was returned from the Schooner with Swivels and Small Arms. The Firing continued about an hour and a half, Mr. Moore then cut the Cable, drop't down Half a Mile lower, & anchored near a Sloop laden with Boards. In the Night they endeavoured to Board us with a Number of Boats & Canoes, but were beat off by a brisk fire from the Swivels & obliged to quit their Boats, four of which in the Morning were left upon the Flats full of holes; we had but one Man Wounded. We hauled the Sloop alongside, took in some Planks, & made a Barricadoe fore & Aft to defend ourselves from the Small Arms. The Captain of the Sloop being well acquainted with the River, carried us down at Daybreak, during the Passage we were continually fired at from the Shore, having a smart Breeze, in jibing, carried away our Booms and Gaff: we saw a Sloop at Anchor about a League off, Mr. Moore came to an Anchor, sent his Boat aboard her, & brought her alongside, took her Boom and Gaff & fixed them in the Schooner, A Sloop & Schooner appeared, we immediately weighed Anchor & stood out for the Sea, they coming up with us very fast, we began to fire our Stern Swivels, & small

Arms as soon as within reach. When within hail, they again desired us to strike to the Sons of Liberty, promising to treat us well, but if we made any resistance they [would] put us to Death, Mr. Moore seeing there was no possibility of getting clear, luffed the Vessel too and gave them a Broadside with Swivels & Small Arms in the best manner he was able, and likewise threw some Hand Grenadoes into them; they immediately laid us Onboard, the Sloop on the Starboard Quarter, the Schooner on the Larboard Bow. At that Instant Mr. Moore received two Balls, one in his right Breast, the other in his Belly the other Officer was slightly wounded in the Side, one Marine killed, two more Wounded, & two Seamen. The Rebels took Possession of the Schooner, & carried her up to Mechais, in great triumph, with their Colours flying. they carried Mr. Moore down into his Cabbin, & asked him why he did not strike when they hailed him, he look'd up and told them "he preferred Death before yielding to such a sett of Villains" – The Rebels had two Killed and four Wounded, one of which expired soon after, Mr. Moore was carried to Mr. Jones's house, where he expired the day following in the afternoon, the 18th the Rebels marched those Men belonging to the Schooner (who were not Wounded) to the Congress. Mr. Moore telling them before his death, that I was a pressed Man, I obtained my Liberty, & went Passenger in a Brig to Halifax, for which I paid four Dollars.

(Signed) Nath^l Godfrey

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston 11th June 1775

Sir, Having Ordered the *Pallas* transport to go to New York, and the Agent Informing me that she cannot proceed for want of Men, I am to beg you would Order Men from your Ships to Man her, & I shall likewise be Obligated to you to give Orders to the Ships under your Command not to inlist or impress the Seamen belonging to the transports, as his Majesty's Service is much retarded for the want of them, and cannot be properly carried on, and as they are the only means left me to Supply his Majesty's Troops under my Command with every Necessary of Life.

I am Sir, [&c.]

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston June 11, 1775

I have the Honor of your Excellency's Letter relating to the Transports Men. The Fact is that from Ill usage they will not stay in the Transports tho' the Wages is 12/6 More than the Kings Pay p Month And if they are not allowed to Enter on board the Men of War, so many Men as are determined to leave the Transports will be lost to the Service – We never impress the Transports people but in Cases of very bad behavior and at the Masters Request nor Inlist them till they have first declared they will not serve in the Transport, but the Masters deserve Severe reprehension for obliging them to quit their Vessels

Your Excellency shall always have as Many Seamen as are wanting – and I take this opportunity to repeat that every assistance in my power shall be given upon your Excellencys application to Me for the good of His Majs Service

I am Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston 11th June 1775

I have this day determined that Captain [John] Collins of his Majesty's Sloop *Nautilus* after Meeting the *Mercury* off New York shall proceed to the Delaware, there to be stationed. Captain Collins shall take any of your Excellency's Dispatches that are ready as I wish him to sail as soon as possible. I have the honor to be with great regard Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS, H.M.S. *Nautilus* ¹

Instead of repairing to Boston as you are directed by my Order of the 7th instant. You are hereby required and directed as soon as the business of the Transports is finished to repair to the River Delaware in his Majs Sloop under your Command, where you are to station yourself in the best manner possible to put in Execution the several Orders you have received relative to Fair Trade, Smugling, the Importation of Arms and Ammunition, and also to put in Execution the late Acts of Parliament you have received for restraining the Commerce of this Country.

And as a Rebellion is at this time subsisting in several of the Provinces on the Continent of America, you are to be upon your Guard against any Surprize, to strictly examine all Vessels you meet that none may be upon the Seas illegally, and to give every Assistance in your Power to his Majs liege Subjects for the Preservation of their Lives and Properties against all Persons whatever. You are to remain stationed in the Delaware until further Orders.

Given under my hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston* at Boston the 11 June 1775.

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 440, MassHS Transcript.

“AN ABSTRACT OF GENERAL ORDERS GIVEN TO THE RESPECTIVE CAPTAINS OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS UNDER MY [VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG] COMMAND THE 11TH. OF JUNE 1775. PURSUANT TO THEIR LORDSHIPS INSTRUCTIONS AND ORDERS TO ME DATED THE 15TH. APRIL 1775 –” ¹

General No 1

You are hereby required and directed Timely to Demand from the Contractors of Victualling his Majesty's Ships and Vessels(or their Agents) in these parts, all such Provisions as you may want; and are to receive the same from the said Contractors or their Agents accordingly. & to be especially careful not to

take on board at any one time more Provisions than shall be necessary for the Service whereon you may be employed, and in Case you should be Ordered to England you are on no Account, to take in more provisions than will compleat what you may have on board, to three Months of all Species, at whole Allowance; upon penalty of making good what Damage his Majesty may sustain thereby.

You are hereby directed and required, not to spare any of his Majestys Stores, to any Merchant Ship or Vessel whatsoever, unless it shall evidently appear, that the ship or Vessel is in the utmost distress for the want thereof, and that she cannot possibly be otherwise Supplied; and that his Majesty's Ship under your Command can spare the same without inconvenience; and in such Case you are not to take Bond for Delivery of like Species, but are to take care that the Party does either pay for the same on the spot, or else give sufficient Security that it shall be punctually paid to the Treasurer of the Navy in England: And you are by the first opportunity to transmit to the Navy board an Account of what Stores you have spared, to whom, and the particular reasons that induced you to do the same; together with one part of the Security taken by you for the Payment; and you are likewise to deliver to me a like Account for my information therein.

And Whereas Cleanliness so very essential to the health of the Companies of his Majesty's Ships employed in the West Indies ought to be particularly regarded, you are required and directed to give strict Orders to your several Officers, that whenever the Weather will permit they see his Majesty's ship washed and Cleaned between Decks, the Hammacoes sent up to be aired; and that the Men do constantly keep themselves clean, which may in a great Measure, be the means of preserving their health and lives.

You are further required and directed on your different Cruizes and as often as you may be at any of the Ceded Islands, &c. to cause accurate Surveys and Charts to be made of the said Coasts with exact Plans of the Harbours of such of them as have not already been Surveyed by Order of the Admirals [Joseph] Tyrrel, [Thomas] Pye, [Thomas] Mann, or [William] Parry, Noting the Soundings, Currents, Tides &c. conformable to the printed Instructions you have received on that head, and you are to send the said Charts and Plans when finished to me, in order to their being transmitted to the Admiralty by the first safe conveyance that offers.

Whenever his Majesty's Ship under your Command happens to be at English Harbour, you are to assist the Naval Officer there with as many Men as you can spare, for repairing the Careening Wharf, Storehouses &c. and converting such old and decayed stores as are convertible, to any use for his Majesty's Service abroad.

General (No 2)

In pursuance of Sundry representations from the Commissioners of his Majesty's Navy, to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty their Lordships Orders to me, in consequence thereof:

You are to take notice that none of his Majesty's Ships under my Command, will be allowed to be Cleaned and refitted more than once a year, and such works will only be done to them which appear to be absolutely necessary; And no Bills will be allowed for any Works done between one cleaning and refitting and another

unless some unavoidable Accident makes the same absolutely necessary; that nothing will be admitted as such, but springing a Leak or carrying away a Mast or Masts.

And the said Commissioners having likewise represented that the Expence of Cordage and Stores of all Sorts appears to them to be so very great that they cannot help entertaining an Opinion that the carelessness in the use and management of them and that Riggers often Condemned when it might last much longer. You are therefore hereby strictly required and directed to be very careful in the management of the Cordage and Stores of all Sorts, belonging to the Ship under your Command, and to use the utmost good Husbandry in the Expenditure of them.

And you are on no Account to bear a Pilot on the books of the ship you Command, except when you are under Orders to proceed to Sea; and the Service you are Ordered on makes the same absolutely necessary.

General (No. 3)

Mr. Secretary Conway (One of his Majesty's late principal Secretaries of State) having transmitted to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, in his Letter dated the 18th. of November 1765 Communicated the Minute of the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury relative to the Importation of Bullion into his Majesty's Colonies in Foreign Bottoms &c. You are hereby required and directed in pursuance of his Majesty's pleasure, Signified by Mr. Secretary Conway, in his aforesaid Letter, to omit nothing in your power to establish the regulations contained in the said Minute; (a Copy whereof is enclosed) which are found to be so essentially advantageous to the Trade of the Colonies as well as the Kingdom of Great Britain.

General (No. 5)

Intelligence having been received that a very illicit Trade has of late been carried on from St. Eustatia and other Dutch Settlements to his Majesty's Colonies in America: You are hereby required and directed in pursuance of the Kings pleasure Signified to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty by the Earl of Rockford, one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, in his Letter of the 26th. January 1775, to be particularly attentive to the above object, and you are hereby Ordered (when Cruizing with the ship you Command on such Station as shall be allotted you) to intercept and Seize any British or Foreign Ships which may be found carrying on an illicit Trade, and which may have on board prohibited Goods, Merchandize, or Warlike Stores, destined to his Majesty's Colonies in America, taking care to behave with necessary moderation and prudence in the execution of this Service.

But his Lordship having by His Majesty's Command further acquainted the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, in his Letter of the 20th February last; that it is only intended that such Foreign Ships should be examined and Seized as may be found hovering about his Majesty's Colonies in America; or within two Leagues from the Land belonging thereto; but that no Foreign Ships shall be examined and Seized on the High Seas at more than two Leagues distance from the Land, unless the Commander of his Majesty's Ships shall have some particular well

found information of any Foreign Ships or Vessels having on board prohibited Goods and Merchandize, or warlike Stores destined to the above Colonies: And that these restrictions however are only meant with regard to Ships or Vessels of Foreign Nations, and not to extend to those belonging to his Majesty's Subjects, either in Europe or America, which may be found at Sea, coming from St Eustatia or other Foreign Ports in America, destined to any of his Majesty's Colonies or Plantations with prohibited Goods or Warlike Stores.

The Respective Captains, of his Majesty's Ships *Portland* *Argo* *Hind* and the *Lynx* and *Pomona* Sloops.

12 June

June 1775 Moored in House Island Road [Falmouth]
 Monday 12 A M Recd on bd wood Anchored here a Ship from Piscataway
 at 11 unmoored – at 2 P M weighed in Co the *Minerva* Merchant
 Ship ½ past Anchored in 3 fam Boat rowed Guard Parole Marl-
 borough –

CAPTAIN WINBORN ADAMS TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY
AT EXETER ¹

By a Message from Portsmouth I am desired to go there to-morrow with my Company to assist in Endeavouring to take or Destroy the Man of war in our Harbour. As my Company were Inlisted under your directions, I think it my duty to wait your order on any movement. Therefore have sent the Bearer and desire your direction in this affair, which I shall endeavour to obey, and am with great respect your very humble servt

P.S. The Plan proposed to execute the aforesd affair I have not heard in particular, only that it was tho't the Deck might be commanded with small arms from the shore, while she was set on fire by Rafts sent down by water.

2. The date is approximated. Winborn Adams's company was mustered into the service at Exeter on June 2, 1775, and on June 17, the Committee of Safety ordered him to march "by the middle of next week to join the army at or near Cambridge." On June 3, Graves ordered Captain Barkley of the *Scarborough* at Portsmouth to send the *Canceaux* to Halifax as soon as he could spare her. By June 10, the *Scarborough* was alone off Portsmouth.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Monday, June 12, 1775

Resolved, That two persons be appointed to repair to the Fortress of Ticonderoga, to examine into the state of the Fortress, and of affairs there, and to act in such a manner as they shall be directed by this Congress, and that four o'clock in the afternoon be assigned for the choice of such persons by ballot; and that the Hon. Major [Joseph] Hawley, Hon. Colonel [James] Warren, and Mr. [James] Sullivan, be a Committee to prepare instructions for such Delegates.

The Committee who were appointed to consider the expediency of establishing a number of armed Vessels, reported. The consideration of the Report was put off to ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

Afternoon

Ordered, That Mr. [James] Sullivan, Hon. Colonel [James] Warren, and Colonel [Joseph] Gerrish, be a Committee to consider what is best to be done with respect to a Vessel said to be going from Salem to New-Providence for Fruit and Turtle for the Army at Boston, and report.

The Committee appointed to consider what is best to be done relative to a Vessel going from Salem to New-Providence, reported. The Report was read and accepted, and is as follows:

Whereas this Congress has been informed that a Schooner belonging to the Irvings in Boston, is fitted out under colour of being chartered by one Thompson, who has lately fled from Medford to Boston, but is really destined to Salem, and from thence to New-Providence, to get Fruit, Turtle, and Provisions of other kinds, for the sustenance and feasting of those Troops who are, as pirates and robbers committing daily hostilities and depredations on the good people of this Colony and all America:

It is therefore Resolved, That Captain Samuel McCobb, a Member of this Congress, be immediately despatched to Salem and Marblehead, to secure said Thompson, and prevent said Vessel from going said voyage, and cause the said Thompson to be brought to this Congress. And the Committees of Correspondence, Safety, and Inspection, are directed to give the said Capt. McCobb all needed assistance therein.

Ordered, That Mr. [James] Sullivan, Captain [Josiah] Stone, and Major [John] Bliss, be a Committee to count and sort the votes for three gentlemen ² [to go to Ticonderoga.]

The Committee having attended that service, reported, that the Hon. Mr. [Walter] Spooner, Hon. Colonel [Jedediah] Foster, and Mr. [James] Sullivan were chosen.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1402, from Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

2. The resolution in the morning called for two members to be selected to go to Ticonderoga, and that figure was possibly an error of the recording secretary.

By his Excellency the Honourable

T H O M A S G A G E, Esq;

Governor in Chief, in and over his Majesty's Province of MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

A P R O C L A M A T I O N.

WHEREAS the insatuated multitudes, who have long suffered themselves to be conducted by certain well known incendiaries and traitors, in a fatal progression of crimes, against the constitutional authority of the State, have at length proceeded to avowed rebellion; and the good effects which were expected to arise from the patience and lenity of the King's government, have been often frustrated, and are now rendered hopeless, by the influence of the same evil counsels; it only remains for those who are entrusted with supreme rule as well for the punishment of the guilty, as the protection of the well affected, to prove they do not bear the sword in vain.

The infringements which have been committed upon the most sacred rights of the crown and people of Great-Britain, are too many to enumerate on one side and are all too atrocious to be palliated on the other. All unprejudiced people who have been witnesses of the late transactions, in this and the neighbouring provinces, will find upon a transient review, marks, of premeditation and conspiracy that would justify the fullness of chastisement: And even those who are least acquainted with facts, cannot fail to receive a just impression of their enormity, in proportion as they discover the arts and assiduity by which they have been falsified or concealed. The authors of the present unnatural revolt never daring to trust their cause or their actions, to the judgment of an impartial public, or even to the dispassionate reflection of their followers, have uniformly placed their chief confidence in the suppression of truth: And while indefatigable and shameless pains have been taken to obstruct every appeal to the real interest of the people of America; the grossest forgeries, calumnies and absurdities that ever insulted human understanding, have been imposed upon their credulity. The press, that distinguished appendage of public liberty, and when fairly and impartially employed it's best support, has been invariably prostituted to the most contrary purposes: the animated language of ancient and virtuous times calculated to vindicate and promote the just rights, and interest of mankind, have been applied to countenance the most abandoned violation of those sacred blessings; and not only from the flagitious prints, but from the popular harrangues of the times, men have been taught to depend upon activity in treason, for the security of their persons, and properties; till to complete the horrid profanation of terms, and of ideas, the name of God, has been introduced in the pulpits to excite and justify devastation and massacre.

The minds of men having been thus gradually prepared for the worst extremities, a number of armed persons, to the amount of many thousands assembled on the 19th of April last, and from behind walls, and lurking holes, attacked a detachment of the King's troops who not expecting so consummate an act of Phrenzy, unprepared for vengeance, and willing to decline it, made use of their arms only in their own defence. Since that period the rebels, deriving confidence from impunity, have added insult to outrage; have repeatedly fired upon the King's ships and subjects, with cannon and small arms, have possessed the roads, and other communications by which the town of Boston was supplied with provisions; and with a preposterous parade of military arrangement, they affect to hold the army besieged; while part of their body make daily and indiscriminate invasions upon private property, and with a wantonness of cruelty ever incident to lawless tumult, carry depredation and distress wherever they turn their steps. The actions of the 19th of April are of such notoriety, as must baffle all attempts to con-

tradict them, and the flames of buildings and other property from the Islands, and adjacent country, for some weeks past, spread a melancholy confirmation of the subsequent assertions.

In this exigency of complicated calamities, I avail myself of the last effort within the bounds of my duty, to spare the effusion of blood; to offer, and I do hereby in his Majesty's name, offer and promise, his most gracious pardon to all persons who shall forthwith lay down their arms and return to the duties of peaceable subjects, excepting only from the benefit of such pardon, *Samuel Adams* and *John Hancock*, whose offences are of too flagitious a nature to admit of any other consideration than that of condign punishment.

And to the end that no person within the limits of this proffered mercy, may plead ignorance of the consequences of refusing it, I by these presents proclaim not only the persons above-named and excepted, but also all their adherents, associates, and abettors, meaning to comprehend in those terms, all and every person, and persons of what class, denomination or description soever, who have appeared in arms against the King's government, and shall not lay down the same as afore-mentioned; and likewise all such as shall so take arms after the date hereof, or who shall in any-wise protect or conceal such offenders, or assist them with money, provision, cattle, arms, ammunition, carriage, or any other necessary for subsistence or offence; Or shall hold secret correspondence with them by letter, message, signal, or otherwise, to be rebels and traitors, and as such to be treated.

AND WHEREAS, during the continuance of the present unnatural rebellion, justice cannot be administered by the common law of the land, the course whereof has, for a long time past, been violently impeded, and wholly interrupted; from whence results a necessity for using and exercising the law martial; I have therefore thought fit, by the authority vested in me by the royal charter, to this province to publish, and I do hereby publish, proclaim a d order the use and exercise of the law martial, within and throughout this province for so long time as the present unhappy occasion shall necessarily require; whereof all persons are hereby required to take notice, and govern themselves, as well to maintain order and regularity among the peaceable inhabitants of the province, as to resist, encounter and subdue the rebels and traitors above-described by such as shall be called upon for those purposes.

To these inevitable, but I trust salutary measures, it is a far more pleasing part of my duty, to add the assurances of protection and support, to all who in so trying a crisis, shall manifest their allegiance to the King and affection to the parent state. So that such persons as may have been intimidated to quit their habitations in the course of this alarm, may return to their respective callings and professions; and stand distinct and separate from the partizans of a constitution, till God in his mercy shall restore to his creatures, in this distracted land, that system of happiness from which they have been seduced, the religion of peace, and liberty founded upon law.

GIVEN at Boston, this twelfth day of June, in the fifth year of the reign of his Majesty GEORGE the third, by the grace of GOD, of Great-Britain, France and Ireland, KING, defender of the faith, &c. Annoque Domini, 1775.

By his Excellency's command, **THO's GAGE.**
THO's FLUCKER, Sec'y.

GOD Save the KING.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

Boston June 12th 1775

(No. 32)

My Lord, . . . Your Lordship was informed that the Forts in Rhode-Island and New-Hampshire had been Seized by the People and the Cannon removed up the Country, and the Pieces Separated and concealed in such Manner that no clear Account was to be obtained of them. Those Forts and Castle William excepted, there is None of Consequence from Casco-Bay to New-York. Fort Pownall on Penobscot had a few indifferent Guns, which were removed some Weeks ago by a detachment of the 64th Regiment assisted by an armed Schooner; and I can't learn that there is any thing at New London, unless an unserviceable old Gun or perhaps two.

Admiral [Samuel] Graves has sent a Ship to cruize for the four Regiments destined to New-York where it's Judged they could be of little use in the present Situation of that Province, and to order them to join the Troops here, where the Rebels have collected their Main Force.

Such of the Transports as can be spared will be discharged; We are obliged now to depend upon them totally for our Subsistence; and have used them for Magazines as well as transporting Troops. The Sudden Refusal of all the Colonies to Supply the Troops with Necessaries of any kind, has put us to Shifts to increase our Stock of Provisions. The Admiral has detained Ships with Flour and sent them in here and we have sent Transports to Quebec for Flour and so much Flesh-Meat as can be procured, but as little Pork or Beef is to be had in that Province, and as it is a Chance if the King's Ships meet with much at Sea; we have fallen upon various Means to procure Pork; and I hope in Some we may Succeed, so as to Supply the Troops, till Sufficient Quantities can be Sent from Europe . . .

I am obliged to use extraordinary Means also to procure Fuel; Contracts are made with traders in this Place to bring Coals from Newcastle, and I have applyed to Governor [Francis] Legge concerning the Proposal of supplying the Troops with Coal from Louisbourg, and have at the same time tryed all Methods to get Wood from the Eastern parts of this Province, from whence the Town and all this part of the country, have usually got their Fire-Wood. If Transports and other Ships sent from England took in Coals for Ballast it would help considerably. Forrage is another Article we are now deprived of, we send our Transports to the Bay of Fundy and other parts of Nova-Scotia for Hay, and to the Province of Quebec for Oats, but hope in a little Time to supply ourselves with Hay with more ease.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/92.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

Boston, June 12th 1775

. . . It will be Necessary also [to carry on a War] to augment the Squadron with a Number of Frigates, for we hear they are fitting out Vessels of Force, in Various Places, much Superior to the Armed Sloops and Schooners;

and I will add the great Service that may be made of the flatbotomed Boats, used last War in landing Troops, big enough to hold Sixty Men including the Rowers; of which we are at this Moment in very great Need.

The Rebels have been burning Houses and driving Sheep off an Island that has an easy Communication with the Main, which drew on a Skirmish with some Marines who drove them away, but an armed Schooner that had been Sent between the Island and the Main Land, became exposed to a heavy Fire of Small Arms and two Pieces of Cannon, and unfortunately got on Shore at high Water: She was protected for a time by two Small Guns from the Ships, and two Field Pieces, but there was no Possibility of Saving her; for as the Tide fell she was left quite dry, and burned. Two Men were killed, and a few Wounded.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/92.

JOURNAL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF RHODE ISLAND ¹

East Greenwich, June [12] 1775

It is voted and resolved that his Honor the Deputy Governor be, and he is hereby requested to write to James Wallace, Esq., commander of His Majesty's ship *Rose*, now in the harbor of Newport, and demand of him the reason of his conduct towards the inhabitants of this colony in stopping and detaining their vessels; and also to demand of him the packets which he detains.

It is voted and resolved that the committee of safety be, and they are hereby, directed to charter two suitable vessels, for the use of the colony, and fit out the same in the best manner, to protect the trade of this colony.

That the said vessels be at the risk of the colony, and be appraised, before they are chartered, by Messrs. Joseph Anthony, Rufus Hopkins and Cromell Child, or any two of them; who are also to agree for the hire of the said vessels.

That the largest of the said vessels be manned with eighty men, exclusive of officers; and be equipped with ten guns, four-pounders; fourteen swivel guns, a sufficient number of small arms, and all necessary warlike stores.

That the small vessel be manned with a number not exceeding thirty men.

That the whole be included in the number of fifteen hundred men, ordered to be raised in this colony, and be kept in pay until the 1st day of December next, unless discharged before, by order of the General Assembly.

That they receive the same bounty and pay as the land forces, excepting that the first and second lieutenants, and master, receive the same pay as the first lieutenant of the land forces [£5 . . 8 . . 0]; and the under petty officers the same as the sergeants of the army [£2 . . 8 . . 0].

And that the lieutenant general, brigadier general and committee of safety, or the major part of them, have the power of directing and ordering said vessels; and, in case it shall appear to them that the officers and men of the said vessels can be more serviceable on shore, than at sea, to order them on shore, to defend the sea-ports of this colony.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the following officers be, and are hereby, appointed to command the said vessels, to wit: of the largest vessel, —

Abraham Whipple, commander, with the rank and power of commodore of both vessels.

John Grimes, first lieutenant

Benjamin Seabury, second lieutenant

William Bradford, of Providence, master.

Ebenezer Flagg, quartermaster, at the wages of £4, lawful money, per month.

Of the smallest vessel, Christopher Whipple, commander.

William Rhodes, lieutenant.

1. Bartlett, ed., *Records of Rhode Island*, VII, 337, 338, 346, 347.

JOHN BROWN TO AMBROSE PAGE AND NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR
OF RHODE ISLAND ¹

Gentlemen

Providence June 12th 1775

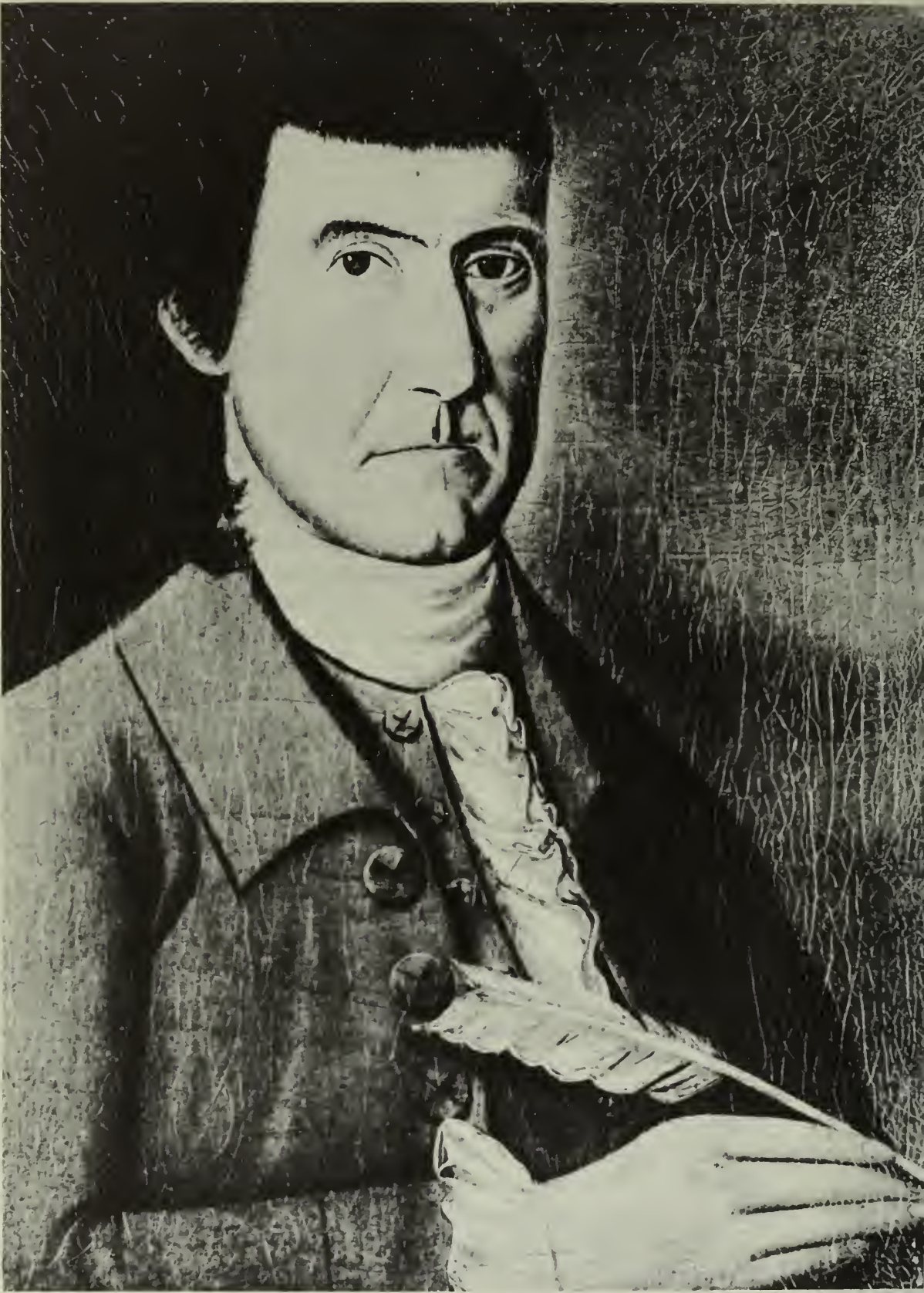
Applycation havg this Day bin Made to persons here to Risque Mr Hackers Boat, he being gone to the Camp, his Son was in Doubt wiether he Could Concent for her to go for fear his father mought Loose her as well as the one now in the hands of the men of warr, and as both the Boats now held by the men of warr are said to be Detained on Account of their haveing bin Impleyod in the Colonys Service in bringing up the Guns Flour &c. it is Requested that You use your Interest in the Assembly that Sum Effectual Method be Immediately Tacon in Order that the Said Boats be forthwith Deliverd up or Tacon, Sum principle people proposes that if Capt [James] Wallace will not Deliver them up the Sherriff of the County of Newport be Orderd by the Assembly to take him and Committ him to Jail till said Packetts are Delivered, Others thinks that if the Sloop *Catey* [Katy] goes out as my Property that it will make me so much more Obnoxious then Any Other person to Capt Wallace &c that my Vessills and Cargoes will be all tacon as they Came in, and I now having 10 Sail out, that its unreasonable that the publick Should Desire me to Sacrifise all my privit Interest for the Bennifitt of the Common Cause, Its therefore proposd that the Colony purchass Sum proper Vessill to be used in Garding the Coast, procureing powder or aney Other use they please, I Expect the *Catey* under the Command of Capt [Abraham] Whipple will go Down with Hackers Boat tomorrow to meet Collo [William] Vernon with his men so as to be Reddy to go out tomorrow nite. I mention this that the General Assembly may if they think it worthy of Notice take the Same in to Consideration and Give Such Directions in this Matter as they in their Wisdom may think proper

I am Gentlemen [&c.]

John Brown

P S. if the Colony will purchase the *Catey* I will agree to Leave it to aney three persons acquainted with navigation to Fix her Value

as I Faired so badly by Means of Undertaking to purchass the Flour for the Government, I Chuse you should keep my name Conceald from the House. Perhaps the Assembly may agree to hire and Resque both Vessills that goes to Retailk the packetts and to be at the Expense of fixing them weither they purchass or



Nicholas Cooke. By an unknown artist, date unknown.

not which Countenance is Absolutely Necessary for the Incoragement of those who may go that doeth not allredy belong to the Armeý –

1. Misc. Mss., RIHS.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, JUNE 12, 1775

Newport, June 12.

Last Tuesday [June 6] a schooner from Philadelphia, loaded with provisions, bound to Nantucket, was brought in here by one of the men of war's tenders. We hear the provisions, in this vessel, belong to near 70 poor men at Nantucket, and the chief their families had to depend on for a considerable time to come.

Last Saturday [June 10] Capt. Cahoone, of this place, arrived here from Virginia, in a sloop loaded with Indian corn, &c. the vessel and cargo were taken into custody by the men of war in this harbour.

the above vessels, 'tis supposed, will be sent to Boston.

New York Gazette, MONDAY, JUNE 12, 1775

New York, June 12.

Wednesday Morning [June 7] died Patrick Strachan, Esq; Senior Lieutenant of his Majesty's Ship *Asia*.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM WILLIAMSBURG 12 JUNE [1775]"¹

By a Gentln who Arrived here Yesterday from N. Carolina, we learn that Governor [Josiah] Martin had gone to Fort Johnston at Cape Fare & had sent his Lady & Family to Long Island amongst her Friends. Our Governor Lord Dunmore has Carried most of his Valuable furniture with him on board the *Fuoy* [Fowey] Man of War The remainder with his Stocks of Catle & horses, Slaves &c are to be sold here, it is said he told the Gentlemen who waited on him on board the *Fuoy* on fryday last [June 9] he Expected the Stroke was Struck to the N. Ward before this, And the people here Unanimously believe that it was in Consequence of Dispatches received on Munday last by the *Otter* Sloop who is come round from Boston that the Governor has taken this Extraordinary Step.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/154, 76b. It is endorsed, "By the *Richmond* Captn Patterson Arrived in Clyde the 15th of July"

13 June

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS¹

[Watertown] Tuesday, June 13, 1775

A Letter from Governour [Jonathan] Trumbull was read, inclosing a Letter from Colonel [Benedict] Arnold, and three Resolves of the Continental Congress; all which were committed to the Committee who were appointed to prepare instructions to the Committees that are to repair to Ticonderoga.

Resolved, That the further consideration of the Report relative to the establishment of armed Vessels, be put off to three o'clock in the afternoon, and

that the Committee of Safety, and Committee of Supplies, be notified of this Resolve.

Afternoon

The Report of the Committee on the expediency of establishing a number of armed Vessels was considered, and, after a very long debate, the further consideration of it was referred to Friday next, at eleven o'clock, A.M.

The Committee who were appointed to prepare instructions to the gentlemen chosen by this Congress to repair to Ticonderoga, reported. The Report was read and accepted, and is as follows, viz.

To Walter Spooner, Jedediah Foster, and James Sullivan, Esquires.

You are directed to proceed, as soon as may be, to the posts of Ticonderoga and Crown Point, by the road through the new settlements called the New Hampshire Grants; that you carefully observe the quality of the said road, and judge of the feasibility of transporting provisions by the said road to the waters of Lake Champlain; that you take with you copies of the commission and instructions of the Committee of Safety to Colonel Benedict Arnold, and inform yourselves as fully as you shall be able, in what manner the said Colonel Arnold has executed his said commission and instructions.

That you make and give to the said Arnold, and any men whom he shall, by virtue of the said commission and instructions, retain in the service of this Colony, such orders as to you shall seem meet, provided always that you do not authorize the said Arnold to engage and retain in the pay of this Colony, as soldiers, a greater number than that specified in his said commission and instructions, and provided that the said Arnold, and the men whom he has retained, are free, and willing to remain at one or both of the said posts, under the command of such chief officer as is or shall be appointed by the Government of Connecticut; and in case you shall order such number of men to be continued at or near the said posts, in the pay of this Colony, as you shall judge it necessary there should be, that you appoint a Committee of one or more persons, in the pay of this Colony, to provide supplies for such men, and a Commissary to deal out such supplies to them; which Committee and Commissary you are to appoint in writing under your hands.

And you are to determine and order respecting the said Arnold's continuing in the commission and pay of this Colony, as to you shall appear most for the general service and safety, after having made yourselves fully acquainted with the spirit, capacity and conduct of the said Arnold.

And in case you shall judge it proper to discharge the said Arnold, that you direct him to return to this Colony, and render his account of the disposition of the money, ammunition, and other things, which he received at his setting out upon his expedition, and also of the charges he has incurred, and debts which he has contracted in behalf of this Colony, by virtue of the commission and instructions aforesaid.

And in case you shall find any men at the said posts properly retained and engaged there in the service of this Colony, that you cause them and their

arms to be mustered, and that to such as shall pass muster, you pay, out of the moneys which you shall receive from our Receiver-General for that purpose, this same advance pay as is, by order of Congress, paid to such men as are retained and mustered to serve within this Colony; and in case you shall not find any men at the said posts, properly engaged and retained in the service of the Colony, or that the number which you shall find so retained shall be much short of the number which said Arnold was empowered to enlist, that then you, if you shall judge that the effectual security of said posts shall require it, and if you shall also find a proper person in those parts fit and suitable for the command of four hundred men, or such less number, as together with such men as you shall find ordered and posted there by any other Colony or Colonies, and shall also find that soldiers can be raised in those parts so seasonably, as that thereby the effectual maintenance of the said posts may be served or promoted; you are to appoint meet persons to be officers and commanders for such a number of men as you shall order to be enlisted, and give the necessary orders for raising, enlisting, and maintaining them, for such term as you shall judge necessary for defence of said posts, and also appoint some sufficient and faithful man as Muster-Master and Paymaster of such men, and leave sufficient moneys in his hands for that purpose, taking proper receipts and his security that the money so left shall be applied to that use.

And you are to take a careful survey of the ordnance stores and ordnance at those posts, together with all other articles necessary for the maintenance thereof, and report the state thereof to this Congress.

And if you shall find it necessary to purchase powder for the men who shall be retained there on the part of this Colony, that you procure the same, and so much as you shall judge needful, in the best and most expeditious way you can, on the credit of this Colony.

And in general, you are fully empowered to do every thing in behalf of this Colony for the effectual securing and maintaining those posts, which you shall judge necessary equal to the importance of the same.

You are further directed, when you shall have transacted what you are, by the foregoing instructions, authorized to do and transact at the posts aforesaid, by the very first opportunity to advise the General American Congress thereof, as also of your opinion of the necessity and importance of maintaining the said posts for the general defence of these Colonies; and when you shall have made yourselves fully acquainted with the state and condition of the said posts, and dispositions and establishments which you shall find are made for maintaining of them, if you shall judge that any further provisions are necessary for securing and maintaining them, you are directed, fully and respectfully, to signify your thoughts thereon to the General Congress. You are also directed to advise the General Convention of the Colony of New York, and the Governour of the Colony of Connecticut, respectively, of what you shall order and transact by virtue of the said instructions.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1405–1408, from Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Boston June 13. 1775.

I have the Honor to acquaint Your Excellency that I have appointed next Sunday the 18th inst for the sailing of the *Cerberus* to England unless Your Excellency wishes her to stay here Longer. I am Sir, [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

Boston June 13th: 1775.

I thank you for your letter Acquainting me of your having Appointed the 18th: Inst. for the *Cerberus*. to sail for England, my personal dispatches are to be put on board the Ship bound for Bristol, which will sail to Morrow, I shall be obliged to you to Order her Convoyd off the Coast, at least as far as Georges Bank; when the *Cerberus* sails I shall have other Dispatches. I am Sir [&c,]

1. Gage Papers, CL.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTAIN ABRAHAM WHIPPLE OF THE ARMED SLOOP *Katy* ¹

By the Honorable Nicholas Cooke Esq Deputy Governor, and Lieutenant General, of and over the English Colony of Rhode Island, and Providence Plantations, in New England, in America.

Instructions and Orders to be observed by Captain Abraham Whipple, Commander of the Sloop *Katy*, and Commodore of the armed Vessels employed by the Government for the Protection of the Trade of this Colony, in Pursuance of the Commission herewith given him

That it shall be lawful for the Said Abraham Whipple, and he is hereby required and enjoined in His Majesty's Name George the third King of Great Britain and So forth, for which his Commission and these Special Orders Shall be a full Warrant and Discharge to him, and all others on Board his Said Vessel and the or [other] Vessels fitted out and employed as aforesaid under his Command, to encounter expulse expel and resist by Force of Arms, as well by Land as Sea, and also to kill, Slay and Destroy, by all fitting Ways Enterprizes and Means, whatsoever, all and every such Person and Persons, as Shall attempt or enterprize the Destruction, Invasion Detriment or Annoyance of the Inhabitants of this Colony or Plantations: And to take and Surprize by all Ways and Means all and every Such Person and Persons, with their Ships Vessels, Armour, Ammunition, or other Goods, as Shall in hostile Manner invade or attempt the Hurt of this Plantation or the defeating thereof, or of the Inhabitants, or of any other Colony's lawfully joined and united with this Colony for mutual Defence and Safety against a common Enemy, in order to preserve the Interest of His Majesty and his Subjects in these Parts.

2. That all Ships and Vessels carrying Soldiers, Arms, Powder, Ammunition, Horses, Provisions, Cloathing, or any thing else for the Use [of] the Armies of Enemies of the united American Colonies Shall be Seized as Prizes.

3. That the Said Abraham Whipple Shall bring or Send into this Colony or Such other Ports or Places as the Exigency of affairs Shall make convenient and Suitable all Such Ships Vessels Goods and Men as he may Seize and take, with all Such Papers Writings and Documents as he may find on Board, to the End that Such Proceedings may be had thereupon as Law and the Necessity of the Case, may Require. And that Such Ship Vessel and Goods, Shall be kept and preserved, without Spoil or Diminution and the Bulk thereof not broken until legal Decision be given for the Forfeiture and Distribution thereof.

4. That no Person taken in any Ship or Vessel, tho known to be of the Enemy's Party Shall be killed in Cold Blood, wounded, hurt, or inhumanly treated, contrary to the just Permission of War, upon Pain of Severe Punishment. And that no female Prisoner Shall be in any manner abused under great and high Penalties.

5. That the Said Abraham Whipple Shall not do or Attempt anyThing against the Commerce or Trade of the United Colonies, or those who have commerce and Friendship with them, unless it be directed against their common Safety, and Such as is declared contraband by the Continental Congress.

6. That the said Abraham Whipple his Officers and Company, Shall endeavour to the utmost of their Power to give Aid and Succour to all Such Ships and Vessels as they may find trading for the Benefit and Advantage of these united Colonies, and labour to free them from every Distress.

7. That the Said Abraham Whipple Shall on bringing or Sending in any Prize immediately give or Cause to be given Notice to the Chief Authority of any Place where Such Prize Shall be brought in, every particular relating thereto, to the End that Justice may be done to all parties concerned.

8. That the Said Abraham Whipple Shall keep a Correspondence from Time to Time, and at all Conveniences, with the Commander in Chief of this Colony or the General Assembly, of all Prizes which he Shall take, and of every Thing Material which may occur; and observe Such further Orders as Shall be given him by the Assembly or his Superior Officers

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Col. afsd by and with the Consent and Approbation of the Committee of Safety the Day of [13 June] ² in the 15th Year of His Majesty's Reign A D 1775

By His Honor's Command

1. "Revolutionary Correspondence of Governor Nicholas Cooke," *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*, New Series, XXXVI, 252-254. Hereafter cited as "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*.

2. The date is approximated. The Assembly commissioned Whipple on June 12. He was cruising on June 15, 1775.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen,

Crown Point June 13th 1775

As commanding Officer here, I think it my duty to acquaint you, that having lately sent one Mr Hoit, an Indian Interpreter to Montreal, & Caughnawaga, to consult with some Gentlemen of my Acquaintance in the former Place, and with the Indians in the latter, to know their Intentions in the present dispute – he has

returned with the agreeable Intelligence that the Indians are determined not to assist the Kings Troops against us, & have made a Law, that if any one of their Tribe shall take up Arms for that purpose, he shall immediately be put to death. This is confirm'd by five of their chief Men, who are now here with their Wives & Children, and press very hard for our Army to march into Canada, being much disgusted with the Regulars. Three Stockbridge Indians, whom I lately sent to them with a Belt of Wampum & Speech, confirm the above. My Friend in Montreal, a Merchant & Gentleman of Probity, writes that I may depend on the Truth of the above, and that great numbers of the Canadians have expected a visit from us for some time, & are very impatient of our Delay, as they are determined to join us, whenever we appear in the Country with a proper Force to support them – This I am confirm'd in by many of the Canadians, having just returned from a short Excursion to the Isle aux Noix (Nuit Island) where a number of them offered to Join us. Govr [Guy] Carlton, by every artifice, has been able to raise only about 20 Canadians, and those of the Noblesse who are in Expectation of places of profit or Honor. He is now at Montreal, and has threat'nd the English Merchants, if they will not defend it in case of an Attack, he will set fire to the City & retreat to Quebec. There are now in Canada of the 7th & 26th Regiments only 550 effective men, who are quartered in the following Manner – At St. Johns & Chamblee 300, at Montreal 40, at Lachine 12, at Trois Riveres 40, at Quebec 120, and some small parties at Out-Posts. From the foregoing matters of Facts which you may rely are undoubted, & from my personal Knowledge of the Country, and Disposition of the Canadians I beg leave to observe, that if the Honorable Congress should think proper to take Possession of Montreal & Quebec, I am positive 2000 Men might very easily effect it, for which purpose I beg leave to recommend the following plan of Operation. – The Men to embark at Crown-Point and proceed in the Sloop, Schooner, Batteaus &c. to within two miles of St Johns, 1700. Men to land there, a Grand Division of a 1000. to proceed directly to Montreal via Lapreira, the other division of 700. to cut off the Communication between St Johns, Chamblee, & Montreal, and the remainder to remain on board the Shipping to secure our Retreat, who will be able to make a Diversion in favour of the Main body untill they can possess themselves of Montreal, whose Gates on our arrival at the place will be opened by our friends there, in consequence of a plan for that purpose already entered into by them – Of Course, Chamblee & St Johns must fall into our hands as well as Quebec, unless a number of Troops should arrive there before our plan can be carried into Execution, the Utility of which the Honourable Congress will be the best Judges. but must beg leave to observe, it appears to me that the Reduction of those places will discourage the Enemies of American Liberty, & in a great Measure frustrate their cruel & unjust plan of Operation, & be a means of restoring that solid peace & Harmony between Great-Britain and her Colonies, so essential to the well being of both, at least it will in my humble Opinion, be more advantageous & attended with less expence to reduce Quebec & keep Possession, where Provisions of every kind are plenty & a strong Fortress built to our hands than rebuilding Ticonderoga, as it will entirely deprive Great-Britain, of the lucrative Branch the Fur Trade, and be an inexhaustible Granary, in case we are

reduced to want, as there are annually shipped from Quebec five hundred thousand Bushels of Wheat. I hope the Exigency of the Times, & my Zeal in the Service of my Country will apologize for the Liberty of giving my Sentiments so freely on a subject which the Honourable Congress are doubtless the best Judges of, but which they in hurry may not have paid that attention to, the Matter requires. I beg leave to add that if no person appears who will undertake to carry the plan into execution (if thought advisable) I will undertake and with the Smiles of Heaven answer for the Success of it, provided I am supplied with men &c. to carry it into Execution without loss of time. I must beg leave to refer you to the Bearer, Capt [Eleazer] Oswald, for particulars who is charg'd with an imperfect memorandum of such Articles as will be wanted – I have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect [&c.]

Benedict Arnold

P.S. The American Colonies in general are equally in Danger from Canada, whether it remain in the hands of the English under the present Form of its Government, or should be restored to the French, which many suspect is intended by the Ministry in England. But should, Canada be placed under a Free Government agreeable to the English Constitution, like the other Colonies, we should forever after be secure from any danger that way, as it would ever remain an English Colony, even tho' by the Treachery of the British Ministry it shou'd be given up to France, so that this measure, tho' at first view it might seem like going beyond our own province to invade the Rights of Great Britain, yet a due Regard to our own defence, as well as the advantage of the Inhabitants of that Country, makes it necessary.

B. A.

1. President's Letter Book, III, LC. For the results of Arnold's letter, see Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 108–110 (June 27, 1775).

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Martis, 9 ho, A.M., June 13th, 1775

Colo. [James] Clinton and Mr. [Christopher] Tappen, a committee for that purpose, reported a draft of a letter to the New-York Delegates, which was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Provincial Congress, New York, June 13th, 1775.

Gentlemen: In consequence of one of your Resolves, we appointed a Committee to view the Post in the Highlands, whose report, with a map thereto annexed, you have inclosed, which is all as yet we have been able to do respecting that matter. As soon as the proper measures on that head are concluded we will transmit them to you.

We are, Gentlemen [&c.]

To the New-York Delegates in the Continental Congress

The Report mentioned in the above letter, is in the words following, to wit:

Your committee in obedience to your order of the 10th ultimo,² do most humbly report, that taking to their assistance Capt, Samuel Bayard and Cap-

tain Erasmus Williams, they proceeded to the Highlands, and made a survey of the ground adjoining to Hudson River, for the purposes mentioned in the said order, and do report it as their opinion, that a post (capable of containing three hundred men) erected on the east bank of Hudson's river, marked A, and another on the west side of the said river, to contain 200 men, marked B in the annexed map, will answer the purpose proposed and directed by the Continental Congress. As it is not only the narrowest part of the said river, but best situated on account of the high hills contiguous it, as well on the west as east side of the river, which cover those parts, so that without a strong easterly wind, or the tide no vessel can pass it; and the tide in said part of the river is generally so reverse, that a vessel is usually thrown on one side of the river or the other, by means whereof such vessels lay fair and exposed to the places your committee have fixed on. Your committee are further of opinion, that the cheapest and best materials to face these works, would be stone and lime, as there are plenty of stone on the same, and adjoining to it, and lime can be had from a little distance up the river.

Your committee beg leave to observe, that they are informed that by means of four or five booms chained together on one side of the river ready to be drawn across, the passage can be closed up to prevent any vessel passing or repassing. Your committee are further of opinion, that if the last measure should be adopted, it would be requisite and highly prudent to place one or two cannon at the mouth of the Highlands, under the care and inspection of a faithful man, to alarm the troops to be embodied at the places proposed, in time of danger. Your committee are also further informed, and are of opinion that there is on the east side of the said river, near the place fixed on in the said annexed map, marked A, a good and convenient place to build a magazine for the lodgment of gunpowder and other stores. We believe that though there is no fresh water on the spot proposed for the east post, yet a good spring is near it, so that it can be conveyed thereto with a very small expense. We think it would be also necessary to build a number of small boats for maintaining a communication between the two posts.

Your committee are unable to make a true estimate of the expense that will attend the erecting the said fortifications, but from the best computation they are able to make, it will at least amount to £1500.

All of which is most humbly submitted by your committee

James Clinton
Christr Tappen

Ordered, That the foregoing letter to the New-York Delegates be engrossed, signed by the President, and (together, with a copy of the above report) transmitted by the first opportunity.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 40-41.

2. This date obviously is in error. The Provincial Congress did not assemble until May 22; and the Continental Congress resolutions of May 25, to fortify the Highlands, were not received by the New York Provincial Congress until May 29. Clinton and Tappen were appointed on May 30, so the date of "10th ultimo" is probably a copyist's error, and should have been "30th ultimo."

MASTER'S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Mercury* ¹

Rem[ark]s &c Tuesday 13 June 1775

P M Modt and fair Hoisted out Cutter and sent her on Bd the *Spy* Transport 30 Days from Cork with part of the 44 Regt. on Bd ² Spoek the *Lord Hide* packet 34 Days from Falmouth got the bo[a]t in and Made Sail the packet in Compy

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1866.
2. The *Mercury* had sailed from Boston on June 2, 1775 under orders to cruise off Sandy Hook to intercept all transports with troops bound for New York, and divert them to Boston. See Graves to Stephens, June 16, 1775.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BALTIMORE, DATED JUNE 13 [1775]" ¹

A gentleman who last night came to me from Williamsburg, which he left on Friday, [June 9], brings account of Lord Dunmore having the day before gone on board a man of war at York, with his Lady and family. The Assembly sent him a deputation to invite him to return, and offered him protection, but he refused, and pretends to be afraid of being assassinated.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, June 19, 1775.

CORNELIUS HARNETT, CHAIRMAN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY, TO THE NEW BERN COMMITTEE ¹

Gentn We have just received Intelligence that one of the Officers of the Man of War ² is gone Express to the Northward in a small Schooner and six men It is supposed she is sent for Arms and for Warlike Stores either to Genl. [Thomas] Gage or to New York

I am for the Committee Gentn Yours &c

Corn^s Harnett

If this Schooner should arrive at New Bern it may not be amiss to secure your Cannon &c

Wilmington June 13. 1775.,

1. Johnston Collection, HL.
2. His Majesty's sloop *Cruizer*.

CORNELIUS HARNETT TO THE NEW BERN COMMITTEE ¹

[Extract]

Govr [Josiah] Martin arrived at Fort Johnston incogo & it is supposed intends that as the Place of his Residence where he will No Doubt Collect Arms & Ammunition perhaps to put into the Hands of our Domesticks and the Wretched deluded People to the Westward should they be weak enough to accept them Nothing shall be wanting on our parts to Disconcert such Diabolical Schemes . . . This Committee, . . . had entered into a Resolution to prevent the Exportation of Provisions for the use of the Army Navy and Fishery which we are convinced you have also adopted
Wilmington June 13, 1775.

1. Johnston Collection, HL.

14 June

JAMES LYONS, CHAIRMAN OF THE MACHIAS COMMITTEE, TO THE
MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen; We, the faithful & distressed inhabitants of Machias, beg leave, once more, in the most respectful manner, to approach your presence, & spread before you a just and full representation of our very critical situation.

On the 2d instant Capt Ichabod Jones arrived in this River with two sloops, accompanied with one of the Kings Tenders: ² On the 3d instant, a paper was handed about for the people to sign, as a prerequisite to their obtaining any provisions, of which we were in great want. The contents of this paper, required the signers to indulge Capt Jones in carrying Lumber to Boston, & to protect him and his property, at all events: But, unhappily, for him, if not for us, it soon expired after producing effects directly contrary in their nature to those intended. The next effort, in order to carry those favorite points, was to call a meeting, which was accordingly done. On the 6th the people generally assembled at the place appointed, and seemed so averse to the measures proposed, that Capt. Jones privately went down to the Tender & caused her to move up so near the Town that her Guns would reach the Houses, & put springs upon her Cables, – The people, however, not knowing what was done, and considering themselves nearly as prisoners of war, in the hands of the common enemy, (which is our only plea for suffering Capt Jones to carry any Lumber to Boston, since your Honors conceived it improper) passed a Vote, that Capt Jones might proceed in his Business as usual without molestation, that they would purchase the provisions he brought into the place and pay him according to Contract.

After obtaining this Vote, Capt. Jones immediately ordered his Vessells to the Wharf & distributed his provisions among those only, who voted in favour of his carrying Lumber to Boston. This gave such offence to the aggrieved party, that they determined to take Capt Jones, if possible, & put a final stop to his supplying the Kings troops with any thing: Accordingly, they secretly invited the people of Mispecka & Pleasant River to join them; accordingly a number of them came & having joined our people, in the woods near the settlement; on the 11th They all agreed to take Capt Jones & Stephen Jones Esqr, in the place of Worship, which they attempted, but Capt Jones made his escape into the woods, and does not yet appear. Stephen Jones Esqr only was taken, & remains, as yet, under guard. The Capt ³ & Lieutenant of the Tender, were also in the Meeting House, & fled to their Vessell, hoisted their flag, & sent a Message on shore to this effect: "That he had express orders to protect Capt Jones; that he was determined to do his duty whilst he had life; & that, if the people presumed to stop Capt Jones's vessels, he would burn the Town." Upon this, a party of our men went directly to stripping the sloop that lay at the wharf, and another party went off to take possession of the other sloop which lay below & brought her up nigh a Wharf, and anchored her in the stream. The tender did not fire, but weighed her anchors as privately as possible, and in the dusk of the evening fell down & came to, within Musket shott of the sloop, which obliged our people

to slip their Cable, & run the sloop aground. In the mean time, a considerable number of our people went down in boats and canoes, lined the shore directly opposite to the Tender, and having demanded her to surrender to America, received for answer, "fire and be damn'd": they immediately fired in upon her, which she returned, and a smart engagement ensued. The Tender, at last, slipped her Cable and fell down to a small sloop, commanded by Capt. — Toby, and lashed herself to her for the remainder of the night. In the morning of the 12th, They took Capt Toby out of his vessell, for a pilot, & made all the sail they could to get off, as the wind & tide favoured; but having carried away her main boom, and meeting with a sloop from the Bay of Fundy, they came to, robbed the sloop of her boom & gaff, took almost all her provision, together with Mr Robert Avery of Norwich, in Connecticut, and proceeded on her voyage. Our people, seeing her go off in the morning, determined to follow her. About forty men, armed with guns, swords, axes & pick forks, went in Capt Jones's sloop, under the command of Capt Jeremiah OBrian: about Twenty, armed in the same manner, & under the command of Capt Benjamin Foster, went in a small Schooner. During the Chase, our people built them breast works of pine boards, and any thing they could find in the Vessels, that would screen them from the enemy's fire. The Tender, upon the first appearance of our people, cut her boats from the stern, & made all the sail she could — but being a very dull sailor, they soon came up with her, and a most obstinate engagement ensued, both sides being determined to conquer or die: but the Tender was obliged to yield, her Captain was wounded in the breast with two balls, of which wounds he died next morning: poor Mr Avery was killed, and one of the marines, and five wounded. Only one of our men was killed, and six were wounded, one of which is since dead of his wounds.

The Battle was fought at the entrance of our harbour, & lasted for over the space of one hour. We have in our possession, four double fortified three pounders, & fourteen swivels, and a number of small arms, which we took with the Tender, besides a very small quantity of ammunition &c. Thus we have given your honors, as particular an account of this affair as possible. We now apply to you for advice, and for a supply of Ammunition & provisions (the latter of which we have petitioned your honours for already) which if we could be fully supply'd with we doubt not but with the blessing of Heaven we should be prepared to defend our selves. — We propose to convey the prisoners to Pownalborough Goal, as soon as possible, there to await your orders. — We are, with deference, your Honors-most Obedient Humble Servants —

By order of the Committee.

Ja^s Lyon Chairman
George Stillman Clerk

Machias June 14th 1775

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 360–362.
2. His Majesty's schooner *Margaretta*.
3. Midshipman James Moore, commanding the tender.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Senegal*, WILLIAM DUDDINGSTON,
COMMANDING ¹

June 1775

Moored in Falmo Harbr Casco Bay

Wednesday 14 Strong gales & fair, P M hove short the Bt & let go the Sl Bower,
at 4, 3 or 4 hundred men under arms abreast of the Ship – Parole
York

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/885.

ANDREW MARSTERS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SUPPLIES ¹

Gentn.

Manchester, June the 14, 1775

I am concernd in a small Vessell, which has begun to load with the best sort of Isle Sable fish, not supposing that that sort would be wanted, but have recd. Advise today that no sort of fish is allowed to be shipt off, and as I have no inclination to be in any ways inimical to the general cause iff you think that such sort of fish will be wanted, I am willing to give itt up, but as I have begun to load the Vessell, not knowing itt would be wanted, & have been att some Considerable charges in shiping & filing the Vessell, should think itt but reasonable I should have a proper allowance for such charge – the fish shipt & ready to be shipt under my care is about seven hundred Qls.

I should be glad to be favor'd with a line As I may govern myself Accordingly I am &c.

And^w Marsters

P S Please to direct the letter to be left with Mr. Isaac Smith att Salem.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 364.

CONTRACT BETWEEN THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SUPPLIES AND JACOB
BOARDMAN AND OTHERS OF NEWBURYPORT ¹

This Charter Party of Affreightment Indented made & fully agreed upon this fourteenth Day of June Anno Domini One Thousand Seven hundred & seventy five-Between Jacob Boardman Merchant, John Harbert Blockmaker and Joseph Stanwood Mariner all of Newbury Port in the County of Essex and Province of the Massachusetts Bay, Owners of the good Schooner, nam'd the *Britaniae* of the Portlage or Burthen of Eighty Eight Tons, now laying in the Harbour of said Newbury Port whereof Abel Coffin is at present Master on the one Part; and Elbridge Gerry, Moses Gill, Benjamin Lincoln, John Pitt and David Cheever Esqrs as a Committee of Supplies for the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, on the other Part, Witnesseth, That the said Jacob, John & Joseph for the Consideration hereinafter mentioned, have granted & letten to Freight – unto the said; Gerry, Gill, Lincoln, Pitt, and Chever, as a Committee aforesaid; all the whole Hull or Body of the said Schooner *Britaniae*, together with all and singular her Masts, Yards, Booms, Bowsprite, Rigging, Sails, Cables, Anchors, Boat Stores & Appurtenances whatsoever to her belonging and They the said Gerry Gill, Lincoln, Pitt, and Chever, as a Committee aforesaid, have in like Manner, hired & taken the

same Schooner of the said Jacob, John, & Joseph for a Voyage or Voyages with the said Schooner to be made from said Newbury-Port, to all or any of the West-India Islands, and directly back to any Part of New England, & to the said Newbury Port, the Place of the said Schooner's right & intended Discharge, and the said Jacob, John, & Joseph for themselves, their Heirs, Executors, & Administrs do covenant grant & agree to and with the said Gerry, Gill, Lincoln, Pitt, and Chever, as Committee aforesaid, by these Presents in Manner following that is to say, that the said Schooner now is, and during the Voyage & Voyages aforesaid, shall be staunch & strong, well & sufficiently Tackel'd, Appareled furnished and prepared with all Things necessary for such a Vessell in the said Voyage or Voyages, and also that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Gerry, Gill, Lincoln, Pitt and Chever as Committee aforesaid their Successors in Office, & their Factors or Assigns as well at the said Newbury Port, as at any other Port, or place whatsoever when the said Schooner hath a Right to go to or touch at during the aforesd Voyage by Virtue of this Charter Party to lade & put on board her, of all such lawful Goods Wares and Merchandize as She can conveniently stow & carry – And in Consideration whereof the said Gerry, Gill, Lincoln, Pitt and Chever as Committee aforesd for themselves & their Successors in Office, do by these Presents Covenant and agree to and with the said Jacob John & Joseph their Executrs Administrs Assigns in manner following that is to say that the said Gerry, Gill, Lincoln Pitt, and Chever as Committee aforesaid or their Successors in Office shall and will sufficiently victuall & man & pay all Port Charges during the aforesaid Voyage or Voyages, and that the Master of the said Schooner shall not alter nor deviate in the Voyage before mentioned nor use any unlawful or contraband Trade, nor do any Act or Thing whatsoever whereby the said Vessell shall be liable or subject to any Seizure, Detention or Confiscation, during the Voyage aforesd and also that in Case the said Vessel shall happen to be seized & condemned for using any contraband or unlawful Trade, or lost at Sea, or any otherwise, during the Prosecution of the Voyage aforesd that then the said Gerry, Gill, Lincoln, Pitt and Chever as aforesaid or their Successors in Office shall & will well & truly pay unto the said Jacob, John & Joseph the Sum of Four Hundred Pounds in full for the Value and worth of the said Schooner, and also the Freight Money that shall be then due, after the Rate mention'd untill the Time of Condemnation of the said Vessell – and further that the said Jerry, Gill, Lincoln, Pitt, and Chever as Committee aforesaid or their Successors in Office shall & will well & truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said Jacob John & Joseph for the full Freight and Hire of the said Schooner *Britaniae* after the Rate of Twenty three Pounds nine shillings and four Pence, for each and every Callendar Month and so in proportion for a Part of a Month as the said Schooner shall be in the said Service from the Time of her entering into Pay which commences on the fourteenth Day of June Instant to the Time of her Discharge at Newbury Port aforesaid. And to the true & faithful Performances of all & singular the Conventions, Articles & Agreements aforesaid whereof the Parties for their respective Parts & in their Capacities aforesaid bind & oblige themselves their Heirs Executrs & Adminsstrs Or Successors in Office unto the other of them their Executors

Administrs & Assigns or Successors in Office in the Penal Sum of Eight hundred Pounds firmly by these Presents: In Witness whereof the Parties aforesaid hath here unto interchangeably set their Hands & Seals, the Day & Year first aforewritten.

David Cheever
Elbridge Gerry
Moses Gill

Benj Lincoln
John Pitts

Signed Sealed & delivered in Presence of us Lowd Kollock WmHunt

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 292, 565.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] June 14, 1775

Resolved, That the Receiver-General be, and hereby is directed, to pay the sum of four hundred Pounds to the Committee who have been appointed by this Congress to repair to Ticonderoga; to be by said Committee appropriated as advance pay to the men enlisted under Col. Benedict Arnold, said Committee to be accountable therefor.

Resolved, That the Receiver-General be, and hereby is directed to advance the sum of twenty Pounds to the Committee who have been appointed by this Congress to go to Ticonderoga, in cash, or bills of credit, at the option of said Committee, for their expences, they to be accountable therefor.

Ordered, That Captain [Isaac] Stone, Colonel [James] Warren, Colonel [Jonathan] Grout, Mr. [Joseph] North, and Colonel [Joseph] Otis, be a Committee to consider the Report of Colonel [Samuel] Thompson, and the Petition of Mr. [Edward] Parry, and report.

Ordered, That the Committee who were chosen to repair to Ticonderoga, be directed to revise ² the papers that respect the Fortress there, and take such as they think they shall want, and that this Congress will not have occasion for.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1408, 1409, from Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

2. Probably "review," and a copyist's error.

DEPUTY GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N.¹

Sir

East Greenwich, June 14th, 1775

Long have the good people of this colony been oppressed by your conduct, in interrupting their lawful trade, and preventing the importation of the provisions necessary for their subsistence.

The acts of the British Parliament, already filled with restrictions of trade, oppressive in the highest degree, seem by you, to be thought too lenient.

Not controlled by those you affect to call your masters, you have detained the persons and taken away the properties of His Majesty's American subjects, without any warrant from the acts of trade; by which, you have greatly impeded the intercourse between this and the other colonies as well as between the different parts of this colony. The inhabitants expecting the interposition of the lawful authority of the colony, have borne these outrages with a patience almost criminal.

The Legislature have heard their complaints, and in consequence of an act passed by the General Assembly this day, I demand of you the reason of your conduct towards the inhabitants of this Colony, in stopping and detaining their vessels. And I also demand of you, that you immediately restore the two packets, belonging to some inhabitants of the town of Providence; and all other vessels belonging to the inhabitants of this colony which you have taken and unjustly detained.

So long as you remain in the colony, and demean yourself as becomes your office, you may depend upon the protection of the laws, and every assistance for promoting the public service, in my power. And you may also be assured that the whole power of this colony will be exerted to secure the persons and properties of the inhabitants against every lawless invader.

An immediate answer is requested to this letter.

I am, sir, your most humble servant

Nicholas Cooke

1. Bartlett, ed., *Records of Rhode Island*, VII, 338.

“REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY’S SHIP *Rose*”¹

June 1775 Moor’d in Rhode Island Harbour
Wedsdy 14 A M Stopt the Sloop *Drummond*, Saml Sowle Master from Tobago
with Rum and Sugar

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

JOHN MCKESSON, SECRETARY OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS, TO
GEORGE CLINTON, DELEGATE TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Extract] New York Exchange Room June 14, 1775

A Connecticut sloop full of armed men have last Sunday Evening or rather Monday morning [June 12] carried all the salt Peter & stores from Turtle Bay. The Boats from the ships of war which pursued next day came within a mile of her; but the drum beat to arms her Crew got ready & the Boats then chose to return.

1. Hastings, ed., *Clinton Papers*, I, 203, 204.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, 9 ho., A.M. June 14th, 1775.

Messrs. Christopher Miller and Patrick Dennis, attending at the door, were called in when they informed this Congress that they were requested by a number of the members of the Marine Society of this city,² to inform this Congress that they were about to form themselves into an artillery company, and they had nominated Mr. Anthony Rutgers, of this city, for their captain and pray the approbation of this Congress in the said nomination.

The Congress having taken the same into consideration, do unanimously approve of the nomination of Mr. Anthony Rutgers, to be captain of the said Company, and recommend to the said society to nominate for the approbation of this Congress, such persons for their officers as may be confided in.

Mr. [John] Foster (seconded by Colo. [James] Clinton) moved in the words following, to wit:

I move that a message be immediately dispatched to Major Genl [David] Wooster, commanding a body of troops in the southern part of Connecticut, requesting him forthwith to march the said Troops to the distance of five miles of this city.

Agreeable to the tenth rule of this Congress,³ at the request of the Deputies of three counties, to wit, the Counties of Albany, Richmond and Charlotte,

Ordered, That this matter be deferred till to-morrow morning.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 41-43.

2. A benevolent society, composed of sea captains or former sea captains, to provide for widows and children of deceased members, or to care for indigent members.

3. The tenth rule, adopted at the opening session of the Congress, on May 22, 1775, provided, "That no question shall be determined on the day that it is agitated, if three Counties shall request that it be deferred to the next day," *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I.

PETER VANBRUGH LIVINGSTON, PRESIDENT OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK, TO THE NEW YORK DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen

In Provincial Congress at N. York June 14th 1775 -

Capt Thompson arrived here in a Ship from Cork last Evening, and as we understood, he had reported that several Regiments had sailed from thence to Boston and four other Regiments embark'd and embarking for New-York; the Congress desired him to attend their Board this morning to examine him upon the Subject. Upon his Attendance we took Notes of the Substance of the Intelligence he gave, and enclose a Copy thereof to you, in Order that it may be laid before the Continental Congress.

We also intend to forward the Intelligence to the Governor of Connecticut, that he may forward the same to the Camp at Cambridge

We are Gentlemen [&c.]

By Order & in behalf of the Sd Congress

P. vB. Livingston Presid^t

[Enclosure]

Capt Thompson arrived at New-York Tuesday 13th June 1775. Left Cove in Ireland 6th May last, and informs that Six Regiments had sailed in 24 Transports for Boston, one Regt of Horse included, which sailed 30th April Three Regiments were embarked & the fourth embarking, to sail for New-York first fair Wind, that Regiment all full, 770 Men each filled by Drafts from the Regiments at remain, their places filled by new Recruits, the General report was, that those four Regts were coming to New-York, and that some Capts & other Officers belonging to the Troops told Capt Thompson in person, that they were coming to New-York, One Regiment arrived at Cork (from Kilkenny) the day Capt Thompson sailed, which was the last Regiment to embark for New-York. saw 12 large Transports destined for New-York, he heard 16. One General Officer to come to New-York - The Troops coming to New-York are to support peoples property and Assist against Mobs, the report in Ireland was, that those Troops had been wrote for by persons here - The Troops in general disliked the

Service, some Officers had sold out, no Ships of War comeing with the Transports, A Report in Ireland that Nine new Regiments were to be raised: – Heard that 30,000. Russians were ready at a minutes warning – That the people in Ireland in general are well affected to the Americans, and are averse to the Americans being Taxed by the Parliament of Great Britain –

Capt McIlvaine sailed (before Capt Thompson) for Philadelphia, has the Number of the Regts coming to America.

1. President's Letter Book, III, 415–417, LC.

ISAAC SEARS TO MAJOR GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER ¹

Dear Sir:

New York, June 14, 1775

The Troops from Cork, destined for this City, may be hourly expected. I have the pleasure to inform you that this day in [Provincial] Congress it was moved that yourself and Troops be requested to encamp within five miles of this City. The motion was put off until tomorrow, at the intercession of the members for three Counties, and you may be assured it will be carried by a great majority. I am, dear Sir, [&c.]

Isaac Sears

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1002. Wooster's rank at that time was in the Connecticut forces. He became a Brigadier General in the Continental Army on June 22, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, June 14, 1775

A letter from the convention of New York, dated 10 June, 1775, respecting a vessel which is stopt there, on suspicion of having provisions on board for the army and navy at Boston, was read and referred to the delegates of Massachusetts bay, Connecticut, and New York.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 90.

15 June

MINUTES OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Capt Henry Elkins: In Committee of Safety [Portsmouth] June 15th 1775

Sr You are hereby directed to man two whale Boats out of your Company, & keep them constantly cruising off & on the Coast, & direct them to acquaint all Vessels bound to Piscataqua, having Provisions, Salt, or Molasses on board, that the Man of War there has orders to Seize them; and advise them to get into York, Newbury-Port, Hampton, or Rye, as they may judge expedient.

by order of the Committee.

The Committee gave the Receiver General orders to deliver to Capt Henry Elkins, Twenty pounds of Gun powder, taking his receipt for the same, to be accounted for.

1. *New Hampshire Historical Society Collections*, VII, 5.

JOHN WENTWORTH, GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO GENERAL
THOMAS GAGE ¹

[Extract]

Fort William and Mary, June 15, 1775

The spirit of outrage runs so high that on Tuesday last [June 13] my house was beset by great bodies of armed men who proceeded to such length of violence as to bring a cannon directly before my house, and point it at my door, threatening fire and destruction unless Mr. Fenton (a member of the Assembly sitting) who happened to call upon me, and against whom they had taken up such resentment as occasioned him some days to retire on board a man-of-war in the Harbour out of their way, should instantly deliver himself up to them; and notwithstanding every effort to procure effectual resistance to disperse the multitude, Mr. Fenton was obliged to surrender himself, and they have carried him to Exeter about fifteen miles from Portsmouth where he is, as I am informed, kept in confinement.

Seeing every idea of the respect due to his Majesty's Commission so far lost in the frantic rage and fury of the people as to find them to proceed to such daring violence against the Person of his Representative, I found myself under the necessity of immediately withdrawing to Fort William and Mary, both to prevent as much as may be a Repetition of the like insults and to provide for my own security.

I think it exceedingly for the King's service to remain as long as possible at the Fort, where I now am with my Family in a small incommodious house without any other prospect of safety, if the prevailing madness of the people should follow me hither, than the hope of retreating on board his Majesty's ship *Scarborough*, if it should be in my power. This fort, although containing upwards of sixty pieces Cannon, is without men or ammunition.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 381.

GOVERNOR JOHN WENTWORTH TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy) Fort William and Mary in New Hampshire June the 15th 1775

Sir I cannot pass over this Opportunity without acquainting You that Tumult and Outrage hath been at length carried to such Excess at Portsmouth, as to make it necessary for me to retire to Fort William and Mary, which is entirely in a defenceless State, without Accomodation, and altogether insecure, in case the prevailing Madness of the People should follow me hither, so that although the King's Service requires my remaining at the Fort as long as possible, yet I have no Prospect of Safety but in the hope of retreating On board the *Scarborough*.

Although Captain Barkley shews the utmost readiness to do every Service and really affords all the Assistance in his power, Yet I think it my duty to mention to You that it would be not only very useful, but that it is exceedingly necessary for his Majesty's Service if the State of the Fleet under your Command would admit of it, to have another Man of War stationed in this Harbour.

Captain Barkley communicated to me your desire of having the small Cannon in this Fort, being only nine four Pounders, and agreeably thereto I ordered them

to be put Onboard the *Canceaux* for Halifax, to be restored again to the Fort if his Majesty shall be pleased to require it.

Sign'd J. Wentworth

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

"TO THE SOLDIERS AND SEAMEN SERVING IN THE BRITISH FLEET AND ARMY IN AMERICA"¹

Gentlemen:

Salem, June 15, 1775

Your situation is very unhappy, being dishonoured by the most infamous service, and under the command of the most vile and miserable wretches that ever disgraced the name of Briton. General [Thomas] Gage, to his eternal infamy, has commenced a thief, robber, murderer, and common butcher of his fellow-men; he has violated the most solemn compacts, and become an apostate to every thing that is honourable or virtuous . . . Admiral [Samuel] Graves has added to the crimes of a common pirate, that of forcing Americans, whom he hath impressed, to act against their own countrymen. Turks and Indians would scorn such rascally conduct, and surely every British soldier and seamen must detest such an odious scoundrel. Gentlemen, the Americans will entertain a respect for you, consider you as their brethren, and wish to live in harmony with you, and to make you free citizens of America. May you soon be freed from the service of tyrants, become the glorious defenders of freedom, and join the victorious Americans.

Sydney

1. This letter or broadside, seeking to proselyte among the British forces in Boston, is printed in Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1004, from an unidentified source.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

Sir./

Boston June 15th 1775.

Mr [Benjamin] Hallowell informed me this Morning that the Rebels have Vessels out watching for the Trade bound to Marblehead and Salem, and to give them notice to put into Newbury Port in Order to avoid your Ships, which I think its proper you should be Acquainted with, and its Asured from other information that Vessels laden with Salt have got in there.

The Vessels laden with Flour which your Cruisers have sent in here have been of very great use to the Service, but we still are in great want of Pork, or Beef; which I am informed there is a great probability of Obtaining provided Cruisers are placed About the Coast between Block-Island, and New Haven, in the Sound, as great Quantitys of Pork is usually shipped at this Season from Connecticut to the West-Indies and the Eastern parts of this Government and that of New Hampshire,

I am, with great regard and Esteem Sir &ca.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir,

Boston June 15th 1775

Two Vessels having been Armed for his Majesty's Service, I am to beg of you to Order Officers to take the Command of them and Men sufficient to Man them.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*" ¹

June 1775

Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour

Thursdy 15 A M Sent the Master one Petty Officer and 11 Men Arm'd in the Sloop *Diana*, to Reconitre the different passages up the river

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N. TO DEPUTY GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Sir,

His Majesty's Ship *Rose* Rhode Island, June 15, 1775

I have received your letter of the 14th inst.; although I am unacquainted with you, or what station you act in; suppose you write in behalf of some body of people; therefore, previous to my giving an answer, I must desire to know *whether* or *not*, you, or the people on whose behalf you write, are not in open rebellion to your lawful sovereign, and the acts of the British legislature!

I am, sir your most humble and most obedient servant.

Jas. Wallace

1. Bartlett, ed., *Records of Rhode Island*, VII, 338.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] June. 15. [1775]

An armed Packet of the Men o' War with 15 Men this afternoon went toward the No. End of Conanicut Isl[an]d to look for a Providence Vessel returning from N. York with Provision. An armed Sloop of our p[eo]ple with 50 Men and Carriage Guns and a dozen Swivels met her. An Engagement ensued about an hour before sunset the Firing tho' for near an Hour was at a Distance and without Execution. There soon came up another small armed Vessel of our people with 50 Men. Upon this the Packet run ashore at Conanicut and the Men o' Wars' men fled. The last small Vessel soon got her off and carried her off in Triumph, the 3 Vessels all sailing off Northward together. The firing was heard at Newport and a great Concourse of p[eo]ple met and gathered on the Wharves. The 2 Men o' War, (which lye near to shore) discovered great Perturbation. About Sunset they sent off another armed Vessel loaded with Marines, which proceeded so far as to find their Mate carried off and then returned without attempting any thing further.

1. Stiles, II, 98, 99, LC.

MAJOR GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT ¹

[Extract]

Greenwich, June 15, 1775

Sir: I take this opportunity to acquaint your Honour of the situation of the troops under my immediate command. One Company of my Regiment, you are sensible, is ordered to Ticonderoga; five more are stationed betwixt New-Haven and this Town, and four are in this place. Colonel [David] Waterbury's Regiment are all in this Town and Stamford. The safety of the Country may possibly require my marching to New-York before I can have your orders. I would, therefore, beg of your Honour to direct me to march my Troops to New-York upon application made to me for that purpose by their Provincial Congress. Your Honour will perhaps think it expedient, when you read a letter which I have just received from Mr. [Isaac] Sears . . . ²

I would also acquaint your Honour that all the military stores which were at Turtle Bay have fallen into our hands, consisting of too many articles to be enumerated in a letter, among which there are about five hundred good horse harnesses, a very considerable number of thirteen and ten-inch carcasses, cohorns, and stinkpots, all well charged; a very great plenty of grape-shot; cannon ball, from twenty-four pounders down to three, &c., &c.; a part of which articles I shall keep with me, but the greater part I shall send to New-Haven.

Your Honour cannot be unacquainted that provisions, stores, &c., can be forwarded along the Sound by water with much greater dispatch and vastly less cost to the Colony than by land; however, at present it is difficult, on account of the tenders and cutters which are perpetually about. We have at New Haven a number of cannon; I have with me all other kinds of military stores, except powder, requisite for a guardcosta; Mr. [Peter] Colt, of New-Haven, has a fine vessel very proper for the business. We have in the Army a very sufficient number of men well acquainted with the seas, and good resolute fellows, and it is my opinion, that the additional cost to the Colony will be nothing more than the hire of the vessel and the powder; that about a hundred of the men under my command cannot be employed in any way so much to the advantage of the Country. I am Sir [&c.]

David Wooster

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1001, 1002.

2. See Sears' letter of June 14, 1775.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, COMMANDING ¹

June 1775

Moor'd in the No River off the Battery

Thursday 15 A M bent Sails came on Board the Pilot, Reced fresh Beef & Beer
 P M at 3 Unmoor'd & hove short on the Bt Br at 5 came to Sail
 [at] ½ past came too in 7 Fathms with the Bt Br & veer'd to ½
 - a Cable, card out the Kedge Anchor with 2 Hawasers to Steady the
 Ship

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Jovis, 9 ho. A.M., June 15th, 1775.

The Congress resumed the consideration of Mr. [John] Foster's motion of yesterday; and thereupon,

Ordered, That a message be immediately dispatched to Major-General [David] Wooster, now commanding a body of troops in the southern part of Connecticut, requesting him forthwith to march the said Troops with their tents and other necessities to the distance of five miles from this city, to be subject to the orders and direction of the Continental or this Congress, while the said troops shall continue in this Colony. And

Resolved, That we will assist the commissaries of the said forces in procuring such necessities for their accomodation as shall be procured within this Colony.

A draft of a Letter to Gen. Wooster on that subject being read and approved of, is in the words following, to wit:

In Provincial Congress, New-York, June, 1775

Sir: You will see by the enclosed order, that this Congress think it expedient to request you to march to this Colony with the troops under your command. If you are not at liberty to comply with the terms of this order until you consult the Governor and Company of Connecticut on this subject, we beg you would immediately dispatch this requisition to them, and transmit to us their determination as soon as possible.

As we have at present but few tents, we beg you would order such as you have to be sent to the place intended for their encampment, and make such other dispositions for the support of your troops as are in your power.

We are, Sir [&c.]

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed and signed by the President, and together with a certified copy of the said order, transmitted by the first conveyance.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 44.

New York Journal, THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1775

New York, June 15.

Last Monday morning [June 12] a quantity of military stores were taken from what are called the King's stores, at Turtle Bay, and carried clear off.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, June 15, 1775

The committee, to whom the letter from the convention of New York was referred, brought in their report, which being read,

Resolved, That the thanks of this congress be given to the convention of New York, for their vigilance in the case of Capt. Coffin's vessel, and that it be recommended to them that the vessel be unloaded, and the cargo safely stored, until all just suspicions, concerning the destination of it, shall be removed.

Ordered, That this be transmitted, by the Prest, in a letter to the chairman of the convention of New York.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole to take into consideration the ways and means of raising money and the state of America; after some time spent therein the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Samuel] Ward reported, that the committee had come to certain resolutions, which they desired him to report, but not having yet come to a conclusion ordered him to move for leave to sit again.

The report of the committee being read and debated,

Resolved, That a General be appointed to command all the continental forces raised, or to be raised, for the defence of American liberty.

That five hundred dollars per month, be allowed for his pay and expences.

The Congress then proceeded to the choice of a general by ballot, when George Washington, Esq. was unanimously elected.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 90, 91.

16 June

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Scarborough Piscataqua 16th. June 1775

Sir Since mine of the 13th. Instant I beg leave to acquaint You that Colonel Fenton who has been these three Weeks Onboard of the *Scarborough* for Protection, went to Town as being a Member of their Assembly which was to have met that day, the populous hearing of his coming to Town assembled in a large body to seize him, he took shelter in the Governor's House, which they immediately surrounded, and got two pieces of Cannon planted against the Door and declared that if he was not delivered up in five Minutes they would set fire to the House, he then surrendered himself to them, and they have carried him into the Country, my Boat happen'd to go to Town, a little while after the tumult was over, the Governor thought proper to retire from the Town in her, he and his family are now at the Castle, and I believe they intend to remain there; You may depend I shall give him every aid and protection in my power.

I beg leave to observe to You, that it will be impossible for me to put in Execution effectually the Duty of this Port without some more force, as there is one or two inlets into this Harbour where Vessels may get to Town without my Knowledge and there is likewise a Harbour called Old York, about four Miles to the Eastward, where Vessels of 150 Tons may go in and send their Cargoes to the Town. It will be impossible to put into Execution the several powers in the Restraining Bills except there is some Vessel to cruize off and to come in here occasionally: Governor Wentworth acquaints me he will write to You upon that Subject.

I am still informed they are making Carriages at Portsmouth in order to mount Guns and when compleated they are to mount them somewhere, but in what part it is not yet known.

I am at present upon pretty good terms with the People of the Town, how long it may remain is very uncertain.

I send this by Mr Turner Master of the *Scarborough* in the *Spinckes* Sloop; I have sent by him Demands for Warrant Officers Stores which You will be pleased to approve of.

Any thing that you may want to know of this Harbour and the Neighbouring Ones he can inform You.

Sign'd And^w Barkley

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Friday, June 16, 1775

The Order of the Day moved for, for further considering the Report of the Committee respecting the expediency of fitting out some armed Vessels.

Voted, That there be a further assignment thereof, viz: to three o'clock, P.M.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1414, from Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Copy./

Boston June 16th 1775.

Sir./ Being informed by Captain [John] Lindsey [Linzee], that the two sloops lately fitted for his Majesty's Service, are in want of Ammunition, I should be glad you would order to be delivered to the Office Commanding them 50 rounds of Powder and shot, for three Pounders, with Spunges &ca. each Sloop carrying 6 Guns. —

I am with Regard & Esteem, Sir, [&c.]

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Preston Boston 16 June 1775

. . . The Rebels landed again the 29th upon Noddles Island, drove off the Sheep and Cattle and entirely destroyed all the Dwellings and Outhouses, Barns, Stables and Hay on the Island; We have saved great part of the Kings Stores, but some are unavoidably lost. Among the Houses destroyed by the Rebels are those mentioned in my Letter January 8 to be hired for the use of the *Glasgow*, when she was repaired; finding they would be very useful for holding Tar, Pitch, Junk, Lumber and many other Articles the Store Schooner could not conveniently keep with the other Stores necessary for the Squadron, I continued to rent them until they were destroyed as above mentioned.

The *Falcon* came to Boston the 2d instant . . . Captain [John] Linzee has lost his Gunner, Surgeon's Mate, a Midshipman, eight Seamen and three Marines, whom he sent in a Sloop to seize a Smugler in Buzzards Bay; returning with the Smugler they were attacked by a Vessel from Dartmouth, taken and carried in there, and I am informed sent Prisoners up the Country, many of them wounded.

The *Charming Nancy* Transport with Cloaths and Stores for the Army arrived the fourth instant with the *Nautilus*, who had been cruising for her ever since her arrival from England.

By a Letter from Captain [George] Montagu dated the 6th of May, I am informed that Lord Dunmore, expecting to be attacked every moment, had requested assistance, that Captain Montagu had sent a Lieutenant with a party of Seamen, an Officer of Marines with his Party, and some of the *Magdalens* people, to the palace at Williamsburgh; Captain Montagu at the same time wrote to the president who resides at York to acquaint him that if any of the Kings People were attacked going to assist the Governor he would fire on the Town.

The Insurgents I find made no Attack, but contented themselves with taking possession of the Receiver of the Quit Rents House and insisting on his giving them Bills to the amount of the Powder secured on Board the Ships.

The *Asia* arrived at the Hook the 25th May and the next day moored before New York. Captain [George] Vandeput acquaints me that he has ordered the *Kingsfisher* to lie at the Hook and to cruize occasionally for the Pacquets and the Troops expected to arrive there. That Lieutenant Governor [Cadwalader] Colden is retired to Long Island, the legal authority of Government entirely suspended, and that the direction of the City is in the hands of Committees, who at present allow the *Asia* to be supplied with every thing wanted; but as there is no depending upon the continuation of such an Indulgence, I have directed Captain Vandeput to compleat his provisions at all opportunities, and to order Captain James Montagu to do the same.

The *Senegal* sailed the 6th instant for Falmouth in Casco Bay. I have directed Captain [William] Duddingstone in addition to his general Orders respecting illicit Trade and the unlawful importation of Arms and Ammunition, to seize and send to Boston all Vessels laden with Provisions, Flour, Grain, Molasses and Salt, as well to distress the Rebels as to supply the Army who are in want of some Articles of Provision.

. . . I have since directed him [Captain John Collins of the *Nautilus*] to proceed off the Hook with Orders for Captain [John] Macartney in the *Mercury* to leave the Service he was employed on to be performed by Captain Collins and relieve the *Fowey* at Virginia as soon as possible; And I have also directed Captain Collins, after the Transports are arrived and he has delivered the General's Letter, to proceed to the Delaware, there to remain until further Orders. The *Nautilus* accordingly sailed from hence this day. I have ordered the *Fowey* to Boston with new raised men for the Squadron, from whence she shall go to Halifax to heave down.

By the *Magdalen* being detained for the protection of Lord Dunmore, the Delaware has been left open to the Importation of prohibited Goods. The critical situation of the Governor of Virginia, and his earnest intreaty for assistance, compelled me to send a Sloop as I could not spare a large Ship. In New Hampshire Government and the Province of Main[e], the people also verging on Rebellion and ripe for every Mischief, it became absolutely necessary to send a Sloop of War to Casco Bay, to defend his Majesty's Officers and peaceable Subjects

in the Town of Falmouth, to seize all Supplies of Provisions, Arms and Ammunition, and in general to give Security to Vessels passing with fresh provisions and Fuel for the Army and Navy and Inhabitants of Boston; I beg you will assure their Lordships that as I am actuated by the strongest desire to do what I think best for his Majesty's Service, It will give me unspeakable Satisfaction if the above reasons justify me with their Lordships for sending Sloops to Virginia, the Delaware, and Casco Bay, and leaving Savannah a little longer unsupplied . . . I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Grave's Conduct, I, 113–116, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE,
H.M.S. *Rose*, RHODE ISLAND ¹

Sir,

Preston Boston 16th June 1775

The Army is in great Want of Beef and Pork, which I am informed there is a probability of obtaining about the Coast between Block Island and Newhaven in the Sound, as great Quantities of Pork are usually shipped at this Season from Connecticut to the West Indies and the Eastern parts of this Province and that of New Hampshire. It is therefore my Directions that you do endeavour by all Means possible to put in Execution the Order you have received to seize and send to Boston all Vessels with Provisions, Salt, Melasses, &c.

I am &c.

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 441, 442, MassHS Transcript.

MOSES BROWN TO JOHN BROWN ¹

Brother John

Providence the 16th of 6th Mo. 1775 –

I recd thy Letter of the 7th at portsmouth the 8th. Inst with Much Concern on thy Acct apprehendg the Measure of Sueing at this time would increas instead of Lessening thy Difficulties for the same Disposition that could Suspect thy purchasing flour on purpose to carry to Boston could evade the force of Such a Suit and even turn it against thee and thy friend at Newport that so kindly assisted in thy relief would take it Unkind at this time when they lay so Expos'd & Under Wallises Resentment which he doubtless would Manifest to them, the Custom House officers hitherto friendly to this work Would be influanc'd not only against thee but the Merchants in Providence, and thereby instead of Satisfying them, when they felt the Consequences would throw the Whole upon thee, thy Vessels wherever found will be particularly Mark'd, & detain'd to thy great Loss, on going to Newport and hearing a Vessel thou was Concern'd was Stopt. I Sent for Nicholas Power & gave him my Sentiments and Advised that if he tho't with me that he Spoke with the Sherrieff & Stopt the Writt till further Orders from thee but that I had no Authority & therefore of my Self would not Undertake it, what was done I know not, but if it is not Stopt its very Clearly My opinion it had better be for it can not be of the Least Service that I can See but Must Bring Distress if not Ruin on thee, as Thy Own friend, may be so far inducd to be thy Enemies at Newport & by Unguarded Expressions at Least Subject thee to the

Strictest scrutiny which even Innocence itself can at this Confusd state of things Just carry itself through the Torrent of Censure So prevalent against Considerate Modest Men that dont Run with the Tides, this I Know by My self who am Much Censured with Hate in the Country but were I to go to Work to Reconcile & please these people I must do things worse then any thing Chargd on me or thee to the Loss of a Quiet & peaceful Mind which I am thankful at times I am favourd with from Consciousness of having as great a regard for My Countrys Rights Liberty & Happiness as the Most Sanguine Wigg – and that I am Clear of having Enterd into any Engagement but such as if pursued by all would be Likely to Effect the Happiness of both Countries and of this Sentiment those who act fuly with me – When I consider thy Engagements at parting with the Admiral thy Letter to [James] Wallace & thy Interest in a Settlement of the Difference with him I am induced to believe thou art Lead a Side from that Standard of Resignation to thy alotment which I was pleas'd to find thee in a degree Possess'd of at Boston a State of Mind Much safer than which is Drove & Hurried with the spirit of the Unhappy Times

When I came home from Newport and heard of a Vessel or Two being Armd & fitted & gone Out to Cruise for Vessels &c I feard whither thou Might not be Still led further a Side from thy Duty by the Same Delusive Spirit and have Sinse heard that thou hast been so far Concern'd therein as greatly to Affect Me as well as thy Self which is the more Imediate Ocation of this Letter As I have not claimd any Merrit to Myself thro My Journey to Boston, I will yet avoid it as far as Possible and only lay the Case before thee for Determination weither or know My Character as a person profesing Religion will not suffer and insted of that Sincerity & Honnesty thou knows I was tho't to have in Boston I shal not be thot to be a Deciver & Hippocrite if thy Conduct Turns out so Contrary to What thou Engaged and I was a Voucher & Surety for? this Hurt to me as a Man only I could bear, but my religious profession & faithful Brethren which are nearer than any thing in my Life to Me are by me in this View Reproachd allso and which at this time when We as a people can not Stand between the Violence of Two parties but by Our Sincerity and faithfulness to the Leadings of that Divine Principal of Truth which we profess to follow is truely a distressing Consideration to Me who am [undecipherable] that the Writt hath already so far Shut up the way of My Serving the Injured Innocent that I could not do any thing for our Numerous friends at Nantucket in the Case of Watermans Detention tho several times Applyd to, for I considered the Officers Must Suppose My at least consenting if not aiding in ye Writt

Add to these Considerations, the Scituation my Estate as well as Person & Character Stand in, Equally Expos'd with thine at a Time when I am Retird from Business and Made Content With what I have, Must it not bring an Additional Trial & an Increasd Mortification to have that Subject to the Pleasure & Will of an other by my Own Agreement Signd by My Own hand before Witnesses for the Redemption of him whose Conduct afterward Subjects me to such Tryal & Loss However afflicting this Dispute to Me I desire to be preserved in Resignation & to Act a Consistant part as far as in Me Lies and be as patient as I can under the Event, it is in vain for Any to think Such Negotiation & Agreements

are Void in Law & therefore the parties May do as they please, If all Confidence is Once Lost by Solemn Engagements being Violated how will future Innocence suffer if there can be no Ransom Comply'd with,

Where an Error by any Inducement takes Place there is no ways I know of to Remedy it but to Leave off[f] Continuing in the Spirit or Disposition that Led to it, I have therefore now only to ask it of thee from the foregoing Considerations and from Every grateful Motive that thou Mannefest in all thy Future Conduct a Conformity to thy Solemn Agreement which will Stand thee in Stead before All Men if thou Conducts – Carefully & peaceably. I have for Sometime back tho't it would be More agreeable to Me to go before the Committee of Correspondence in the Town & lay before them every Transaction Respecting the getting thy Liberty from the Admirals Ship and unless Matters are restord as far as may be that Violates or is Lead to Violate Our Engagement I must in Justice to My Self family & friends Make Known the Part Acted for thy Relief, which on thy Acct I at first feard would be to thy Disadvantage and am not yet clear weather it may not become my duty to lay before the Admiral my intire Disapprobation of Such Conduct for the Clearing My Self but I hope there may be no necessity for this I fear having taken hold on My Mind at Seeing thee of Writing the address to the Assembly that those would be led through a desire of Popular Approbation (a Share I am not Unacquainted with) to Do something that would lay us under Difficulties to guard & prevent which, I gave them a Copy of what we both signd Mentioning at the same time we were bound in Honour to the Observance of it and for thy Conduct after & till I went from home I had no concern on that Acct I have taken this Method of Writing in preference of an Interview Knowing it is Seldom Sollid Opportunities can be had from thy Hurry in Business & that thou Might Set down & Cooley Way the Steps that has been pursued and Make a stop for believe it as Necessary for thee at this Time of Tryal & Difficulty as it was for the Children of Israel they came to the read Sea which Also Lays befor Thee, they Were Order'd to Stand Still & See the Salvation of God, they obeyed and the floods were Divided before them & then they past to Safety tho' no doubt fearfully on, May this be our Case Dear Brother and thou [] Arive at the Banks of Deliverance from not only Outward but Inward Troubles which the tinder in heart knows their travels remarkably Tipifye. Tis the Desire of thy friend & Brother—

1. Moses Brown Papers, RIHS.

JOURNAL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF RHODE ISLAND ¹

East Greenwich, June [16] 1775

It is voted and resolved, that the letter written by His Honor the Deputy Governor to James Wallace, Esq., commander of His Majesty's Ship *Rose*, and Capt. Wallace's answer, be published in the next *Newport Mercury*, and *Providence Gazette*.²

1. Bartlett, ed., *Records of Rhode Island*, VII, 353.

2. The letters were published in the *Providence Gazette*, June 17, 1775, and in the *Newport Mercury*, June 19.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] June. 16. [1775]

Most of the Men o' Wars' Men have got back on board Ship again. Five of them left the rest and last night stole a boat and crossed to Narraganset – came down to the ferry – said they were fishermen com[ing] over to Newpt. – set out to cross the ferry, but after sailg some Distance seized the ferryman, took helm and came round the So. End of Conanicut to the Men o' War; The rest wandered in the fields near shore – today the Men of War sent an armed Tender which went and pick't them up and bro't 'em home. This night all the Cannon were removed back from the Wharves into To[wn] by the Inhabitants.

1. Stiles, II, 100, LC.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*, CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE,
COMMANDING ¹

Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour

June 1775 A M Recvd 8 Puncheons of Beer. Sent the Master 1 Petty Officer
Friday 16th and 11 Men arm'd in the Sloop *Dianna*; Tender to the Ship, to reconitre the different Passages up the river towards Providence. First part fresh Breezes and Cloudy. Middle and latter light Airs. P M About 6 Clock as our Tender was standing off and on between Gold Island, and the North Point of Connannicot Island; they saw a sloop standing down the river; Our Tender Hove too, to speak her she Hail'd the Tender and told them to bring to directly or he would sink them directly; – Fir'd a shot, which the Tender return'd and kept a smart Fire on both sides for near half an hour when another Sloop Joining, and bringing our Tender between two Fires that they had no Opertunity of getting off; she made two or three Tacks to get off: By Accident the Swivel Catrages blowing up, and the musquet catridges near Expended; thought most prudent to run the Tender on shore to save the men, which was accomplish'd near the No Point of Connanicott Island only a Petty Officer and one man wounded by the Powder blowing up. Tho a Constant Fire on them at their Landing, Night Coming on, they being closely pursu'd, seperated and got safe on board the Ship by noon next Day.

Gunners Stores Lost in the Sloop Viz Bright musquets 11. Marines Do. 7 Cutlasses with Scabbards 17, Bayonets with Scabbards 9. Marine Do. 7 Ships Pistols 12, Cartouch Boxes with belts and straps 12. Swivels 4, aprons of Lead 4, Swivel Worms and Ladles 1 each, Pikes 8, Cases of Wood 2, Musqt Catridg box 1, Powder Horn 3, Priming Irons 6, Powder in Swivel Catridges 50. Pounds Catridge, 9 pounders 2 Do. ½ pounders. 40 round Shot Do 40 Grape 40. Musquet Shot 15 Pound. Pistol Shot 9 Pound. –

Boatswains stores Rope 2 Inch 30 fm. 12 Inch 50 fm. Blocks of 12 Inch double 2, Single of 8 Inch 3. Thimbles 12. Marline Spikes 2. 1 Foremast Steering Sail, and a mizn T Gt.Sail. 1 Hatchet. 2 Logglines, and 15 hammocks. Carpenters Stores Viz. 1 driver yard, 1 fore T.Mast Steering sail yard; 1 Tarpoline. Pursers stores Viz. 1 Puncheon and 1, Barrell.

pr. Sav^{ge} Gardner. Master

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/7743.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Swan*, JAMES AYSCOUGH, COMMANDING ¹

June 1775 Moor'd in Rd Island Harbour

Friday 16th The *Rose* and Tender weighed and reconitrd The Different Passages up the River, at 6 heard the report of Several Guns up the river which Proved to be some Armed Vessels Do they Took the Tender but all the Men Escaped

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/960.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, June 16, 1775

A Letter from the Convention of New York recd by express, was laid before the Congress and read, which being taken into consideration,

Resolved, That the provincial convention of New York, be desired immediately to apply to Governor [Jonathan] Trumbull to order the Connecticut troops, now stationed at Greenwich, Stamford, and parts adjacent, to march towards New York, and that part of them occupy such posts upon that Island as the sd provincial Convention shall judge best adapted to prevent the communication between the town and country from being cut off, the remainder of the troops to be employed in securing the navigation of Hudson's River by erecting Batteries at such places as the sd Convention shall judge most proper to answer that purpose.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 95.

MASTER'S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Mercury* ¹

Rem[ark]s &c Friday 16 June 1775

PM Light Airs and fair W[eathe]r at ½ past 2 the packet parted Compy and went under Convoy of the *Kings Fisher*, Employd Turning in to Sandy Hook Do Light house West 2 Miles

½ past 7 Anchored at Sand Hook with Best B[owe]r in 5 fm water & Veard to ½ of a Cable Sand Hook Light house E ¾ N the E[as]termost Bloff of Staten Isld N ¼ W and point Comfort W[es]t, Spoke the *Rebecca & Frances* Transport from Cork with part of the 40 Regiment.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1866.

LORD DUNMORE TO CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU, H.M.S. *Fowey*¹

(Copy)

Fowey June 16th 1775

Sir The present distressful situation of His Majesty's Government in this Colony making it necessary that I should transmit the most speedy Account of the same to the King, I am obliged to request that you will order His Majesty's Schooner the *Magdalen* to proceed to England upon this urgent Occasion.² I am, Sir [&c.]
Dunmore

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

2. The "urgent Occasion" was to send Lady Dunmore and his family to England, the transmitting of a speedy account being but a subterfuge.

DIARY OF THE SALEM MORAVIAN CONGREGATION OF NORTH CAROLINA¹

June 16. [1775] Col. Armstrong² came from Cross Creek, and told us all sorts of things about the present unrest in the Colonies, the *confusion* constantly increases, Gov. Josiah Martin is said to have gone to Fort Johnston, in Wilmington they wanted to close the harbor but could secure no gun-powder.

1. Fries, ed., *Moravians in North Carolina*, II, 875.

2. Col. Martin Armstrong, of the Surry County Militia.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *Saint John*, LIEUT. WILLIAM GRANT, COMMANDING¹

June 1775 Anchored in Cockspur Road

Friday 16 Fresh Gales and hazy Wr – P M received Information of a Number of armed people in boats Coming over from the Carolina shore, with an intention to Land on Tybees Island in the Province of Georgia, but on what purpost its not known – Loaded and shotted the Guns with round and Grape Shot – Keep the people under Arms all Night –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

17 June

[EXTRACT] MACHIAS COMMITTEE TO MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL CONGRESS¹

Gentlemen, Since the express left this, by whom we transmitted an account of the taking of the *Margeritta*, one of the Kings Tenders, we have discovered, upon examining the Papers, that both Capt. Jones' vessels Sloops, of about 70 Tuns each, were, in the Kings service. And as the people are now obliged to provide for their own safety, in the best manner possible, the Committee of Safety have resolved, with the utmost, expedition, to arm one of sd Sloops, & to act [only] on the defensive.

We are deeply sensible of our own weakness & danger; & with [bec]oming deference, we once more apply to your Honors for advice & support, if we are judged worthy of your Notice.

We are Gentlemen very respectfully &c.

Machias June 17, 1775

Jas Lyon Ch. M.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 368.



Town & County Mag. Dec. 1774

St. John's Light
House in B.

Inter. Gales and Hazy W. - PM Received Information of a Number of
armed people in boats coming over from the Carolina shore, with
intention to Land on Tybee Island, in the Province of Georgia,
but on what purpose its not known - Loaded and shotted the guns
with round and Grape shot - Kept the people under Arms all
night - At 11/10 large boat manned and armed landed on the
aforesaid place, from thence they moved off down to Tybee
Island

D.

At 11/10 came on board and took refuge the Hon. Mr. John Stuart Representative
for Indian Affairs his life being threatened, and it was not safe for
him to remain any longer in Georgia - At 12 past 5 Appied a boatman
and arrived from Savannah with some of the principal people of the
country going down to join the Carolinians. Ordered the boat to be manned
and armed, to intercept them, and made them return - At 4. Withdrew
and came to sail ten down to Anchor of Tybee Light house - At 9 AM
received a Number of Men armed lying and walking amongst the
tushy coming out in small parties. Moved huge Governor's Troop from
Tybee Light house to Tybee Island with 5 guns returned - At 10 PM

JOHN WENTWORTH, GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE TO THEODORE ATKINSON,
SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ¹

Dear Sir—

Castle William and Mary, 17th June, 1775.

Captain [Andrew] Barkley has this morning seizd the Sloop *King Fisher*, Jona Eaton master, laden with thirteen hogsheads & three tierces of Molasses, bound from Newbury to Piscataqua for breach of Acts of trade. This Sloop run into Little Harbour and unladed Eight cask into a Gondula without entering or reporting at the Custom house. Capt Barkley sends information to the Custom house & directions to have Vessel & Cargo forthwith libell'd in the Court of Vice Admiralty, This is not therefore any Stopage upon his general orders relative to Provision vessels &c. but wou'd have taken place any time heretofore, I therefore hope it will be consider'd & occasion no disturbance in town.

We shall rejoice exceedingly to see you in this our pleasant retirement where we breath a good air & have some safety from unreasonable Attacks.

Mrs W & our son are pretty well & we unite in best Respects to you. I am &c.

J. Wentworth

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 382; and XVIII, 665.

CAPTAIN ELIJAH HYDE'S ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL ¹

On friday night June 17th 1775 Fifteen hundred of the provincials went to Bunker's Hill in order to intrench there and continued intrenching till saturday 10 OClock, when two thousand of the Regulars embarked from Boston, landed in Charlestown, plundered the town of all its valuable effects & then set fire to it in ten different places at once, then divided their Army, one part of them marched up in the front of the provincial intrenchment & began to attack the provincials, at long shot, The other part marched round the Town of Charlestown under cover of the smoke occasioned by the fire of the Town, in order to flank the provincials. The provincial Sentries discovered The Regulars marching up on their left wing; upon notice given by the Sentr[ies] to the Connecticut forces Capn Nolton [Thomas Knowlton] of Ashford with four hundred of sd forces immediately repaired to, and pulled up a post and Rail fence, carried the posts and rails to another fence & put them together for a Breast work, Capn Nolton gave orders to his men not to fire untill the Enemy were got within fifteen Rods and then, not till the word was given, It was observed that the first fire from Capn Nolton's men, did great execution, & put the Enemy into disorder, the action continued about two hours when the Regulars gave way upon their right wing and were pursued by the Connecticut forces, until General [Seth] Pomeroy ordered those who had been in action two hours to fall back & their places to be supplied by fresh Troops, which Orders being mistaken for a direction to retreat, The Provincials upon the Right wing, began a retreat, which was communicated to the left wing the pri[nci]ple place of action, where Captns Nolton [John] Chester [James] Clarke and [Israel] Putnam [Jr.] with their Companies had drove the Enemy fifteen or twenty Rods back & being warmly engaged in the pursuit and on the point of pushing their Bayonets, were, not without difficulty, perswaded to retire, But the right wing having by mistaking the Orders

already retreated, the left wing, to avoid being encircled, were obliged also to-
gether with the main body to retreat with precipitation across the causeway
to Winter's Hill, in which retreat they were exposed to the Enemy's fire from
their Shipping and floating Batteries, where the provincials sustained the greater
part of their loss. The Enemy pursued the provincials to Winter's H[ill], their
own Troops being reinforced by General [Israel] Putnam, renewed the [Battl]e with
spirit, repulsed the Enemy with great Slaughter, & pursued them till they got
under cover of their Cannon from the Shipping, when the Regulars retired to
Bunker's Hill, & the provincials to Winter's Hill, where after entrenching and
erecting Batteries, on monday our Troops began a brisk fire upon the Regulars
on Bunkers Hill and u[pon] their Ships & floating Batteries – when the express
came away

The number killed of the provincial troops betwixt forty and Seventy
wounded a hundred and forty – of the Connecticut forces Sixteen were killed,
no Officer from Connecticut either killed or wounded except Lieut [Thomas] Gros-
venor who was wounded in the hand – a Col. or Lieut Col. from New Hamp-
shire was killed – It is said that Doctr [Joseph] Warren is undoubtedly among
the slain –

The Provincials lost 3 Iron Six pounders, some intrenching tools and a few
Knapsacks –

The number of Regulars who first attacked the provincials was two thousand,
the number of provincials fifteen hundred, The Regulars were afterwards rein-
forced with a thousand men – It is uncertain how great a number of the Enemy
were killed or wounded, But Spectators who saw the whole action judged that
there could not be less than four or five hundred killed; Mr Gardner who got
out of Boston sunday Evening says that there were five hundred wounded men
brought into that place the morning before he came out –

This Account was taken from Capn. Elijah Hide of Lebanon who was a
Spectator on winter's Hill during the whole action

1. U.S. Revolution Collection, LC, enclosed in William Williams to the Connecticut Delegates in
the Continental Congress, June 20, 1775, *ibid*.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Lively*, CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP, COMMANDING ¹

June 1775

Moord off Charles Town

Saturdy 17

Modt and fair Weather at 4 A M discover'd the Rebels throwing
up a Redoubt on a Hill at the Back of Charles Town ² Began to
fire upon them as did the Battery of [*sic*, on] Copps Hill at 8 Un-
moor'd & run down aBreast of Winesimet Ferry & Moor'd at 11
thè Troops landed at Charles Town – a Continual firing kept be-
tween both Armys at 2 P M Charles Town was set on fire. Boats
empd fetching Wounded Men from Charles Town. Our Arm'd
[sic! Army] storm'd the Redoubt. the Rebels retreated

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

2. According to all contemporary accounts, the *Lively* was the first vessel to discover the entrench-
ments being thrown up on Breed's Hill.

"REMARKS &CA ONBOARD THE *Somerset*"¹

June 1775

Moored in Boston Harbour

Saturday 17

A. M. His Majesty's Ship *Lively* began to fire on some Rebels, who were erecting a Battery on the Hill above Charlestown; at 9, the New Battery at the No end of Boston began to fire. at 10, the *Falcon* did the same; the *Lively* [war]ped lower down & began firing; the Rebels fired several shot.

P. M. sent 11 Men onboard the *Falcon*, & 30 onboard the *Symmetry* Transport; the transport next up the Harbor. Boats of the Squadron, and all the Transports Boats employed taking in the Troops; at 2, the Troops, under the cover of the *Lively* and *Falcon*, landed at Charlestown without Opposition; at 3 the field pieces began to fire before a warm Engagement began; at ½ past 5 the firing slackened; The Troops burnt Charlestown; our Boats employed carrying wounded Men over to Boston; sent 6 Punchs of Water for the Use of the Troops

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/906.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Preston*, CAPTAIN JOHN ROBINSON,
COMMANDING¹

June 1775

Remarks Boston Harbour

Saturday 17

at 4 [A M] we observed that the Rebels were Intrenching upon a Hill that Commanded Boston – The *Lively* and *Glasgow* kept firing upon their Battery and were soon seconded by Shot and Shells from Boston which Lasted till noon, at which time we made the Signal for all Boats Mann'd & Armed.

P M at 1 The Boats of the Fleet and Transports repaired to the different wharves to embark the Troops and Ferry them over, which was done to the West side of Mystake River; The *Lively*, *Glasgow*, *Falcon*, with the *Symmetry* Transport and an Arm'd Sloop kept a Constant fire upon the Rebels, to prevent their annoying the Troops on Landing. At 3 The Troops, after having formed upon The Beech, advanced to the Rebels Intrenchments from which they dislodged them with the Loss of 150 Men. Our Boats Employed in Carrying the Wounded over to Boston, and bringing fresh Troops.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Glasgow*, TYRINGHAM HOWE, COMMANDING¹

1775 June

Moor'd in Boston Harbour

Saturday 17

Fresh Breezes & Clear . . . at 4 A M the *Lively* fired several Guns at a Breast Work the Rebels were erecting ½ past veer'd away the Bt Br & hove short on the Sm Br & Carried out the Stream Anchor to bring the Ship to bear on Charles Town Neck Anchored here the *Symetry* Transport & *Spitfire* Sloop, A M fired several Guns at the Rebels that were marching into Charles Town People at Quarters as before – P M sent the Yawl mann'd & arm'd to assist



Battle of Bunker Hill.

IT was on the seventeenth by break of day,
 The Yankees did surprize us,
 With their strong works they had thrown up
 To burn the town and drive us.
 But soon we had an order came,
 An order to defeat them,
 Like rebels stout, they stood it out,
 And thought we ne'er could beat them.
 About the hour of twelve that day,
 An order came for marching,
 With three good flints and sixty rounds,
 Each man hop'd to discharge them,
 We marched down to the long wharf,
 Where boats were ready waiting,
 With expedition we embark'd,
 Our ships kept cannonading,
 And when our boats all filled were,
 With officers and soldiers,
 With as good troops as England had
 To oppose, who dare controule us.
 And when our boats all filled were,
 And when our boats all filled were,
 We row'd in line of battle,
 Where showers of ball like hail did fly,
 Our cannon loud did rattle.
 There was Cup's hill battery near Charlestown
 Our twenty-four's they played,
 And the three frigates in the stream,
 That very well behaved.
 The Glasgow frigate clear'd the shore,
 All at the time of landing,
 With her grape shot and cannon balls,
 No Yankees e'er could stand them.
 And when we landed on the shore,
 We draw'd up altogether,
 The Yankees they'd all man'd their works,
 And thought we'd ne'er come thither,
 But soon they did perceive brave Howe,
 Brave Howe, our bold commander,
 With grenadiers, and infantry,
 We made them to surrender.
 Brave William Howe on our right wing
 Cry'd, boys fight on like thunder;
 You soon will see the rebels flee,
 With great amaze and wonder.
 Now some lay bleeding on the ground,
 And some fell fast a runnin',
 O'er hills and dales and mountains high,

Printed and Sold at No. 25, High Street, PROVIDENCE, where are kept constantly for Sale 200 other kinds of the most excellent Songs and Ballads, by the Hundred, Dozen or Single—great allowance made to Shopkeepers, Pedlars, &c. who buy to sell again—a large assortment of entertaining Books on various subjects, calculated to edify and amuse all classes and characters a long winter evening—a great collection of Picture Books for Children, and a very general assortment of SCHOOL BOOKS and STATIONARY

Crying zounds! brave Howe's a coming
 Brave Howe is so considerate,
 As to guard against all dangers
 He allow'd each half a gill this day—
 To rum we are no strangers!
 They began to play on our left wing.
 Where Pigot he commanded,
 But we return'd it back again,
 With courage most undaunted.
 To our grape shot and musket balls,
 To which they were but strangers,
 They thought to come with sword in hand,
 But soon they found their danger.
 And when the works were got into,
 And put them to the flight, sir,
 They pepper'd us poor British elves,
 And show'd us they could fight sir.
 And when their works we got into
 With some hard knocks and danger,
 Their works we found both firm and strong,
 Too strong for British Rangers.
 But as for our Artillery,
 They all gave way and run,
 For while their ammunition held,
 They gave us Yankee lun
 But our commander he got broke,
 For his misconduct sure, sir,
 The shot he sent for twelve pound guns,
 Were made for twenty-four's, sir,
 There's some in Boston pleas'd to say,
 As we the field were taking,
 We went to kill their countrymen,
 While they their bay were making.
 For such stout whigs I never saw,
 To hang them all I'd rather,
 By making hay with musket balls,
 Lord Howe cursedly did bother!
 Bad luck to him by land and sea,
 For he's despis'd by many,
 The name of Bunker Hill he dreads,
 Where he was flog'd most plainly.
 And now my song is at an end,
 And to conclude my ditty,
 'Tis only Britons ignorant
 As for our KING and WM. HOWE,
 And Gen GAGE, if they're taken,
 The Yankees will hang their heads up high
 On that fine hill call'd Bacon.

Landing the Troops Fir'd several Guns to annoy the Rebels whilst the Troops were landing at Charlestown 4 Saw Charlestown on fire at 5 saw the Troops take possession of Bunkers Hill Supply'd the *Symetry* Transport with Ammunition 8 P M hove in on the Bt Br & Veer'd as before People at Quarters as before

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE, COMMANDING ¹

June 1775 At Single Anchor in Boston Harbour
 Saturday 17 A M Recd 20 Men from the *Sommersett*. Weigh'd and Shifted to the Entrance of Charlestown River and by Springs on our Cable got our Broad side to Bear on the Rebels and began to fire with Round Grape & Small Arms. Continued to fire on the Rebels till 4 P M at which Time Charles Town took fire Our Boats Empd Carrying Wounded men over to Boston

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Cerberus*, JAMES CHADS, COMMANDING ¹

June 1775 Moor'd in Nantasket Road
 Saturday 17 at Noon the Signal was Made for all Boats of the Squadron to Attend the landing of the Troops under General [William] Howe on Charlestown Neck . . . at 1/2 past 1 P M General Howe landed wt 3000 Men on Charlestown Neck at 2 they began to Attack the Rebles Intrenchments 1/2 past the Adl by Genl Howe's request sett Charlestown on Fire at 4 the Firing still continued very Warm both from our Ships & Troops ashore

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir. Boston 17th June 1775

I thank your Excellency for the information that the Rebels have Vessels watching for the Trade bound to Marblehead and Salem to direct them to avoid our Cruizers by putting into Newbury Port – I have given the necessary Orders to frustrate that design, and for intercepting the Connecticut Vessels.

We can only equip One of the Sloops fitted for the King's Service, for tho' the other has Guns & Carriages, Yet she wants Beds, Coins and indeed every thing else – Lieutenant Thomas Graves commands the Sloop that is armed and she is as well armed and manned as can be from the *Preston* having ordered her to be supplied with every thing they desire – Your Excellency may be assured that it is absolutely impossible for Us to provide the other with the Articles wanted to make her useful.

We shall keep a good look out and give every assistance in our power. I have the honor to be with great regard & Esteem

Sir [&c.]

Sam¹ Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

[Preston, Boston] 17th [June, 1775]

Early in the morning the *Lively* gave the first Notice of the Rebels fortifying Bunkers Hill, by firing on them as they were at work; And it was thereupon resolved by the General to attack them forthwith. General [William] Howe and the Admiral went together on board the *Somerset*, intending if possible to have had that Ship warped in to cover the Landing, but there was not sufficient depth of Water: The larger Ships therefore could give no other assistance, than that of lending Boats, Men, Ammunition and other Stores to the small, which was done. Two Officers and thirty six Seamen were sent from the *Somerset* to the *Symmetry* armed Transport and twenty Seamen to the *Falcon*, to reinforce those Vessels. The *Preston* manned the *Spitfire* Sloop of Six 3-pounders, and provided her with Ammunition, and the Boats of the Squadron attended, and were employed wherever they could be of Use. As this Affair was sudden and unexpected there was no time for constructing floating Batteries, or Rafts of real Service, as any such would have been a work of some days.

The *Glasgow* and *Symmetry* kept a constant Fire on Charles Town Neck, and two Scows with a 12 pounder in each end, manned from the Ships of War under the direction of Colonel [Thomas] James, went as near to the Mill house as possible; at first to prevent fresh Forces coming over during the Fight, and afterwards the routed from getting off: But the ebbing Tide would not admit either the Scows or small Vessels to approach within the Distance desired. The *Lively*, *Falcon*, and *Spitfire* abreast of and below Charles Town covered however the Landing and continued firing so long as they could annoy the Enemy without injuring our own Troops.

The Shot from the *Lively* and Battery on Copse Hill in the Morning must have done great execution in the morning for 40 men were found buried upon Bunkers Hill, and it was these must have been killed & put under ground then, as it was impossible that the Rebels could afterwards, during the heat & hurry of the Attack have had time to bury any of their dead.

The Admiral not only offered and gave every assistance in his power, but went ashore in person to be near General Howe, for the sake of seeing whether any further aid could be given, and of ordering it immediately; & whilst he was there the General observing the mischief his left Wing sustained by the fire from Charles Town, the Admiral asked him if he wished to have the place burned, and being answered *Yes*, he immediately sent to the Ships to fire red hot Balls (which had been prepared with that in View), and also to Copse Hill Battery to desire they would throw Carcasses, into the Town; and thereby it was instantly set on fire in many places, and the Enemy quickly forced from that station. In consequence of intelligence this day the Admiral acquainted the Commanders of the cruising Vessels that the Rebels had fishing Boats, out watching for their homeward bound Trade to direct them to avoid our Cruizers by going for Newbury Port. And the Commanders of the Kings Ships were enjoined to be vigilant in frequently examining the Coast as far as Piscataqua, and to impress as many Seamen as possible and not to spare even their Fishermen.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 117, 118, MassHS Transcript.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1775

Providence, June 17.

[Here are inserted: Lieutenant Governor Nicholas Cooke to Captain James Wallace, R.N., June 14, 1775 and Captain James Wallace, R.N. to Lieutenant Governor Nicholas Cooke, June 15, 1775]

On Thursday last [June 15], soon after the above insolent Answer was returned to the Deputy-Governor, as one of the Packets mentioned in His Honor's Letter, which had been piratically seized and detained by Capt. Wallace, was cruising as a Tender in the Narragansett Bay, in Quest of Plunder, as usual, she spoke with an armed Sloop, fitted out by the Colony for the Protection of its Trade, whose Commander not answering in a Tone sufficiently submissive, was fired upon by the Tender; the Compliment was returned with such Effect as to put the Pirates into some Confusion, and they endeavoured to make off, but were prevented by an armed Packet Boat, in the Service of the Colony, that had by this Time come up; the Pirates finding they could not escape, ran the Vessel ashore on Connanicut, and went off with much Precipitation. The Firing on both Sides continued some Minutes though none of our People were hurt, and but one of the Pirates wounded. On board the Packet retaken were found 8 Swivels, 17 Stands of Arms, a Number of Pistols, Cutlasses, Cartouch-Boxes, &c.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] June. 17. [1775]

Last Tuesday [June 13] Mr. [Joseph] Wanton, the Governor Elect went up to Greenwich and offered himself to the Assembly there to be sworn into Office – which they by Vote refused – and so he returned next day in Infamy. By order of Assembly D.[eputy] Gov. [Nicholas] Cook[e] sent a Letter yesterday to Capt [James] Wallace of the *Rose Man o' War* demandg by what Auth[orit]y he interrupted the Trade, demandg the Surrenderg of all the Vessels and Provisions he had seized, and declaring in Case of Refusal that the whole Force of the Colony should be employed against him. We have no Men o' War, but half a dozen Privateers full of Desperadoes might prove troublesome to a 20 Gun ship. Wallace treated the Letter with Insolence, and Contempt. He had six provision Vessels about him seized, besides 2 which affected to be under his protection as belonging to Tories. Wallace and [James] Ayscough in their 2 Men o' War ² and all their Tenders this Day came to sail and went to the So End of Conanicott then to the No End and so look't round. In their Absence five of the seized Provision Vessels were brought safe to the Wharves, by a Number of p[eo]ple who went off to them. Indeed it was evident Wallace intended they sh[oul]d escape, for he took his own men out of the Captures, leaving only two Marines on board one of them— . . . Our p[eo]ple offered to bring off her also. but the Capt. refused – as the Quakers of Nantucket are favored by Parliament—

1. Stiles, II, 100, 101, LC.

2. H.M.S. *Rose* and *Swan*.



(Top) The engagement at Charlestown, 1775. (Bottom) The attack on Bunker's Hill and the burning of Charlestown, 1775. By an unknown artist, c. 1800.

“REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY’S SHIP *Rose*”¹

June 1775 At Single Anchor In Rhode Island Harbour
 Saturday 17 8 A M Unmoord and hove Short fird a Gun and made Sigl to
 weigh Do Weigh’d and came to Sail, in Co the *Swan & Charlotte*
 Tr [Tender]
 3 P M turning back for Rhode Isld Run on board of a Schooner
 and Carried away the driver Yard At 6 Anchd 3 fm soft bottom

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

MAJOR GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER, TO PETER VANBRUGH LIVINGSTON,
 PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

Sir – Greenwich, June 17th, 1775

Your favour of the 15th instant in behalf of the Provincial Congress, with the enclosed order, I received yesterday morning, and immediately dispatched the requisition to the Governor, who, together with the council of war, are empowered by our Assembly to order the destination of the troops. I shall hold myself in readiness to march whenever I receive the Governor’s orders.

I am, Sir [&c.]

David Wooster

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 47.

PETER VANBRUGH LIVINGSTON TO MAJOR GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER AT
 GREENWICH¹

Sr – Provincial Congress New York 17th June 75

Being well inform’d that four Regiments containing near three Thousand effective Men were sailed, in Transports for this City, we took the Liberty to request the Assistance of those brave Sons of Freedom who are under your Command. We are this Instant farther informed that the *Mercury*, Ship of War, was cruising upon our Coast, & is now at Sandy Hook, to order those Transports to Boston immediately & did on Tuesday last [June 13], thirty Leagues to the South East of the Hook deliver her Orders to the old *Sp[r]y*, Man of War, now a Transport with Part of the Forty fourth Regiment on Board, which immediately alter’d her Course From hence we conclude that a very capital Stroke is meditated against our Brethren of the Massachusetts’ Bay – you best can determine Sir whether it is proper on this Occasion for the Forces under your Command to march Westward; but we are led to believe that it is of more important Consequence to secure the several Passes with which Nature hath bounteously fortified the eastern Country, that if some unexpected Chance of War should prove fatal to us in the first Contest, the Enemy may by such Means receive a Check in his Career of Vengeance We beg you to transmit this Intelligence to the provincial Camp with the utmost Dispatch We are Sr [&c.]

Peter B. Livingston President

(By Order of the Provl Congress)

1. “Nicholas Cooke Correspondence,” *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 245, 246. Copy of this letter is in President’s Letter Book, III, LC.

JOHN MCKESSON, SECRETARY OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS, TO
GEORGE CLINTON, DELEGATE TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract] [New York] Saturday past 2 o'clock P.M. June 17 1775

Since the Dispatches from our Congress were closed & delivered to the Bearer hereof, Capt. Dobbs who now acts as one of our City pilots is come up from Sandy Hook with a vessel & gave me the following Information, to wit:

That a Transport, a very large ship, and full of soldiers, is at the Hook, that she waits for a wind to proceed to Boston & Expected to sail from the Hook this afternoon; that she is part of the second fleet of Transports from Ireland, and left Cork five weeks yesterday, destined for New York, but is now proceeding to Boston in pursuance of orders delivered by the *Mercury* man of war at the Hook. That this vessel has on Board a person who is sent out as agent for the said Troops and a Stewart or Deputy Agent. That this ship is a prime sailer & parted with the other ships who sailed in company four weeks ago. Capt. Dobbs says he does not know the name of the vessel, but that it is not the old *Spry* mentioned in the Dispatches from our Congress. Capt. Dobbs says that the Chief mate of this ship & the Deputy Agent informed him that the first fleet of Transports from Ireland (destined for Boston) sailed nine or ten days before this ship, that the light horse were in the fleet; that the fleet which had been destined for New York, of which this ship was a part, had about 26 or 2700 men on Board, besides officers, as he understood.

1. Hastings, ed., *Clinton Papers*, I, 204, 205.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Saturnii, 9 ho., A.M., June 17th, 1775.

Captain Jeffrey, the captain of the packet, being requested to attend this Congress, and attending at the door, was called in, and, in substance informed the Congress, that on Tuesday last [June 13], about thirty leagues to the south-east of Sandy Hook, he saw the *Spry* man of war, now a transport, with part of the forty-Fourth Regiment on board. That he was informed by some of the officers of the troops on board the *Spry*, that the *Mercury* man of war, had ordered the *Spry* transport to Boston, and was cruising thereabouts to order all the transports with troops which were destined to New-York, to proceed to Boston That he had also had the like information from some of the officers of the *Mercury* . . .

Thereupon, a draught of a letter to Major General [David] Wooster was read and approved of . . . ²

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, signed by the President, and transmitted by Jacob Shafer as a messenger for that purpose.

A draught, of a Letter to the Delegates from this Colony at the Continental Congress was also read and approved.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the President, and that a copy of the resolve and order of this Congress of the 15th inst. for introducing the Connecticut forces, under the command of General Wooster; a copy of the letter to General Wooster from this Congress of the same date; and the before written Letter to General Wooster of this day, be enclosed to the said delegates,

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 45, 46.

2. See letter to Wooster of this date.

Gentlemen

In Provincial Congress New-York June 17th 1775

From this Information we are induced to conclude that some Capital Stroke is medi[t]ated against our Brethren of the Massachusetts Bay. — We therefore Gent think it our Duty to dispatch this Information to you that it may be known to the Continental Congress. — We are Gentlemen

P. vB Livingston Presidt

P.S. We enclose you Copies of two Letters we have dispatch'd to Genl [David] Wooster

1. President's Letter Book, III, LC.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN ¹

[Baltimore] 17th June 1775

I wrote you the 3rd Inst by Cathrew² since then have Recd yours of the 5th & 10th April but have not time to Answer them fully as the Vessell that carries this is Getting under way but Shall write you by Leakeys Ship Soon, that T. Ewing is Loading for Cork. I must request your turning out Capt [James] Green of the Schooner on his Arrivall at Dublin as he has behaved like a Rascall and the first loss is Allways the best. he put into Amboy as he Says in Distress and went from thence to Philada for his wife, which perhaps he may have taken with him One Sn Skinner Esqr at Amboy done the business of the Vessell and will no doubt give you all Necessary accts that you may know how to settle with him, he had from me here 6.15.0 and you are not to Allow him any Charge only his bare Wages. I will write you more fully Soon About him. I have got no Vessell for Drogheda or Newry. Wheat could not be Got under 6/4 by any Quantity & few wagons Comes in flour 14/ I shall draw on G[eorge] D[arley] for 100 £ Sterl in a few days favr of Robt Lisle Esqr –
Capt [James] Tippet p London³

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Alexander Cathrew, master, brig *Dutchess of Leinster*, cleared June 5.

3. Brig *Rachel*, James Tibbet, master, cleared June 19, for London.

LORD DUNMORE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Fowey in York River, 17th of June 1775

Sir, I have received the Letter with which you have favoured me by Capt [Matthew] Squires, and I thank you as well for that as the assistance which by the *Otter* Sloop You have sent to His Majesty's Government in this Colony.

After having seen the greatest part of the Colony in Arms, and suffered continual insults accompanied by threats of the utmost violence against my Person, upon so slight a pretence as my having removed Gun Powder afforded them; and finding that the meeting of the Assembly, which I have called together for the purpose of taking into Consideration the Plan of reconciliation held out by the Parliament, has served only to increase the Tumults in and the disorders of the Country, I have thought it most Conducive to the good of His Majesty's Service to fix my residence onboard the *Fowey*.

I have found by experience that I could rely on no protection but such as was furnished me, by the Zeal of Captain [George] Montagu, from His Majesty's Ships under his Command; and as the marching the few Men he could be able to spare me, through a covered Country the distance of several Miles, exposes them to very great risk from the Superior number of the People who have made no hesitation at declaring their intention of attacking them, I thought it most prudent to avoid such unequal contests, and for the preventing of the shedding of Blood I have resolved to quit the Place where the Governors usually reside, which is at the distance of some Miles from any Place where the Men of War can approach, and consequently lies at the mercy of the People, and to retire to the only safe retreat at present in the Colony for any Officer of the Crown; and my Intention is to remain in this Situation until I receive Instructions from His Majesty, for the procuring of which, and for the conveying of the most speedy Intelligence of these transactions to His Majesty, I have applied to Captain Montagu to dispatch Mr [Henry] Collins with the *Magdalen* to England; in conformity to which she is to sail immediately

If the Circumstances of the Service at Boston, and His Majesty's orders to you permit, I am still in hopes that you will augment the Sea Force in this part of America as much as will be possible, as the keeping of these considerable Countries lying upon the great Rivers which empty into the Bay of Chesapeake in awe cannot but contribute much to the Success of the General Plan for enforcing the Authority of Government in the Colonies.

It were to be wished that small Vessels could be kept constantly passing from Station to Station along the Coast for the purpose of regular and uninterrupted intelligence between all the ports where any of His Majesty's Servants are employed; who by these means may mutually aid each other. The land Conveyance is no longer to be depended upon. I am Sir, [&c.]

Dunmore

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

Sir

Fowey at York 17th June 1775

In consequence of a Demand from the Contractor for supplying the Army at Boston on his Agents here (Messrs Gibson Donaldson & Co) with a Quantity of Pork, And they finding it dangerous to Answer the same made Application to His Excellency the Earl of Dunmore to fall on a Method of having it safely and secretly procured; And that in consideration of the rebellious State of the Country, And having a Consultation with his Lordship have fallen on a Plan of seizing a Brigantine loaded with Pork and cleared out for Antigua, and send Mr. Crawley in Charge with her to Boston – The Master of her having proper Instructions on that head, And hope You will approve my Conduct herein, As the Committee have positively threatned and forbid the Contractor at Norfolk to supply any of his Majesty's Ships with more Provisions than what the said Ships can consume within themselves, as by that means they prevent any being carried to the Fleet.

I take this Opportunity of acquainting You with the arrival of his Majesty's Sloop *Otter* the 10th Instant, as also the *Arundle* Schooner, And am honoured with your Order of 21st. of May and Letter of the same and 22d – Also the Dispatches; Captains [Edward] Thornborough and [Francis] Parry's I have not as yet had an Opportunity of sending, but shall embrace One that will soon offer, for His Excellency the Earl of Dunmore has thought proper to apply to me to send two Vessels that had formerly been seized and condemned in the Court of Admiralty, A Sloop by Lieutenant [Henry] Colins And the *Sally* Schooner by me (and of which my former Letters informed You) to St Augustine to bring Troops, And that in their way there, they shall deliver the dispatches.

Agreeable to the part of your Letter of the 21st of May I had ordered Lieutenant Colins to prepare for his Station, But thought it prudent to heave the Schooner down here under the Protection of his Majesty's Ships, And which she is doing alongside the *Otter*.

I beg leave to acquaint You that on the 7th Instant the Governor was obliged with his Family to leave Williamsburgh and come Onboard the *Fowey* for Safety; as has some other of the Inhabitants; And that his Lordship has thought it proper to give the most speedy Accounts of the same to the King, and has applied to me to dispatch the *Magdalen* on that Service, which I shall do and inclosed transmit You a Copy of his Lordship's Letter.

From the hostile Appearance of the Country I cannot think it prudent to leave the Station until I have You[r] further Order, or relieved by another Ship, which I hope will be soon as the Ship and Boats are in great want of Repairs, and Stores of most kind – Your Order of the 21st of May requires my proceeding directly to Halifax, when I leave this Province, but as your prior Order directs my raising 100 Men and represented the fleet being in want of

Biscuit, shall think it prudent to put into Boston to deliver the Men and Bread as You may please to direct.

Sign'd George Montagu

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485. LC Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Tamer*, EDWARD THORNBROUGH,
COMMANDING ¹

June 1775 In Rebellion Road So Carolina
[Saturday] 17 at 7 A M came on board a Pilot, cleard hause unmoored Ship & warp'd further down the harbour at 11 Moored a Cable each way in 6½ fm water Sullivans Isld Et Light house So Fort Johnson S W 1½ Mile the Best Bower to the Et wd . . . /Modr Breezes & Clear at 8 P M came in his Majesty's Sloop *Scorpion* with Governor Lord William Campbell,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *Saint John*, LIEUT. WILLIAM GRANT,
COMMANDING ¹

June 1775 [Anchored] off Tybees Light House Inlet
Satrday 17 At 11 / 10 learge boat mann'd and Arm'd landed on the aforesaid place [Tybee Island], from thence they Moved off down to Tybee's point
Came on board and took refuge the Honble John Stuart Superintendant for Indian Affairs his life being Threatned, and it was not safe for him to remain any longer in Georgia – At ½ past 5 stopped a boat mannd and Armed from Savannah With some of the principal people of the Committe going down to Join the Carolinans. Ordered the boat to be mannd and Armed, to intercept them; and Made them return

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN FRANCIS GRANT GORDON, H.M.S.
Argo ¹

You are hereby required and directed forthwith to recve the Provisions on board his Majesty's Ship under your Comma[nd for] three Months of all Species, and are then to Sail to the Island [of] Dominica, there to complete your Wood and Water, and having [so] done; you are immediately to proceed to the Island of Barba[does] and apply to William Senhouse Esqr Surveyor General of hi[s Majts] Customs at Barbadoes and the Leeward Islands &c. to grant the usual Deputations for your self and two other Officers belong[ing] to the Ship you Command, to enable you more readily to execute [the] different Services expected to be performed by his Majesty's Ships and Ves[sels] in these Seas, as expressed in the general Orders you have received [from] me, Dated the 9th Instant

You are afterwards to proceed to the Island of Tobago, Gre[nada] and St Vincent; Where, you are in pursuance of the Kings pleas[ure] Signified by one of

his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, to make enquiry into the State of Trade &c. and to see that no encroachments are made in any part of them, and you are on your return to this harbour to make report to me, of the results of such enquiries, and Observations [in] order to my Transmitting them to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to be laid before his Majesty: this enquiry you are constantly to repeat at all the different Islands within my Comm[and] whenever you shall be sent to any of them, and so long as you shall continue on this Station.

You are likewise from time to time to correspond and Con[sult] with the Governors of the several Islands within the extent of [your] different Cruises, in what manner the Ship you Command may be employed in guarding the said Islands, and protecting their Trade, and are to govern yourself according as shall be agreed upon at [such] consultations, as far as you shall be able, without running the Ship into any very apparent danger, taking care she is consta[n]tly employed in the most effectual manner for the preservation of [the] said Islands, their Trade &c. and you are not to neglect the s[ame] upon any consideration whatever: And Whereas the due performance of these Services will require that the Kings Ships u[n]der my Command should be kept at Sea as much as possible, and the [lives] of the Men belonging to them, depends in great measure upon [them] not being suffered to idle away their time in Port, where they fall [into] drinking and other Debauchery; you are therefore required and direct[ed] never to go unnecessarily into Port, with the Ship you Command or to rem[ain] there longer, than the wants, and necessities, or any public Service you [went] in upon, shall unavoidably require.

You are to remain in the aforesaid Service till the 30th Ju[ly] and are then to return to English Harbour, for further Orders durin[g your] Cruise you are by every opportunity to transmit me an account [of] the State and Condition of his Majesty's Ship under your Command together with such intelligence as you may receive, and judge proper for my knowledge, and in case you should gain any Intelligence that you think I ought to be made immediately acquainted with, you are then to make the best of your way with such intelligence to this Harbour, or whatever other Island you shall hear of my being at. For which this shall be your Order:

Given under my Hand on board the *Portland* in English Harbour Antigua the 17th June 1775

Jam^s Young.

By Command of the Admiral Geo: Lawford.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

18 June (Sunday)

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Merlin*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM C. BURNABY,
COMMANDING ¹

June 1775 Moored in Marblehead Harbor

Sunday 18 Fired 4 Guns & 4 Swivels at some Rebels who fired at the Ship

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/604.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Preston, Boston] 18 [June 1775]

Most of the Artificers in Boston this morning refused to work on a Brig building for the Crown. Whereupon the Admiral. having the Governors permission, immediately sent four Press Gangs, under the Command of Captain [John] Linzee to secure all the Shipwrights, Caulkers and Seamen they could lay hold of and send them on board the flag Ship which was accordingly done: between two and three hundred men were thus impressed, among whom, were found many sailors, who were taken for the Ships, and the Artificers, after some days confinement, consented to work and were released.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 118–119, MassHS Transcript.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT, TO JOHN HANCOCK,
PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

Lebanon 18th June 1775

In my Letter of the 7th instant, you are informed of my having your favour of the 27th of June, and of the proceedings of our Assembly on its contents, and on the earnest request of the Massachusetts Congress to augment our Troops in the public Service. – In our hurry it was omitted, that near the ending of the session, It was Resolved That two Vessels of a suitable Burden be immediately fitted out, Armed and furnished, with Officers, Men, and necessary Warlike Stores, for Defence of the Sea Coasts in this Colony, under the care and direction of The Governor and Committee of Council –

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, facing pp. 1685, 1686.

CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY, R.N., TO CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH, R.N.¹

No. 4. [Cruizer, off Fort Johnston, North Carolina June 18, 1775] ²

Dear Sir, Do be so obliging to let me know if you have any News from the Northward as I boarded a sloop toDay which came from Charles Town before that from Rhode Island he told me Capt [John] Lindsey [Linzee] was there from the disposition of the People here I am laying off Fort Johnston where the Governor is he has just sent his Family to New York. I am Dr Sir [&c.]

Fran Parry

P.S. If the Frigate or Sloop that bring Ld William [Campbell] is to go to the Northward or England Governor [Josiah] Martin would be obliged to you to order her to call here

To Captain Thornborough of his Majesty's ship *Tamer* Charlestown

1. Copy in Johnston Collection, HL. It is attested by William Henry Drayton, Chairman of the South Carolina Committee of Safety.
2. The date is approximated. Governor Campbell arrived at Charleston June 16, 1775, and the sloop from there must have left that port prior to his advent.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS, LONDON ¹

[Extract]

[Charleston] 18. June. 1775.

p *Rabbit*, Capt. Fraser

the Militia were turned out in order to receive Lord Wm Campbell who arrived yesterday Evening having been detained off the Bar [due] to the loss of one Tide until the restraint upon Pilots was taken off, which we could not effect without Some opposition & even a Question – his Lordship was received by the Grenadier Company at his Landing escorted by them in front of the common Militia, the Artillery & Light Infantry Companies & I am Sure he must have Seen Such improvement in these new Troops as would, if the Times were other wise, have filled him with Surprize & pleasure – you would be astonished if you were to See the advances we have made in military exercises – His Lordship was not honoured by a long train of attendants – two of the Council, two or three Judges, the Secretary & Some Officers of the *Scorpion* with barely one or two more made up his Retinue –

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–75, SCHS.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *Saint John*, LIEUT. WILLIAM GRANT, COMMANDING ¹

June 1775

[Anchored] off Tybees Light House in Cockspur Road

Sunday 18

At 4 Weighed and came to sail run down & Anchord of[f] Tybees light house – At 9 AM discovered a Number of Men Armed lying and Walking amongst the bushes coming out in small parties. – Arrived here *Governor Tonyn* Sloop from St Augustine Saluted us with 5 Guns Returnd 3 – Liberty flag flying on the Light house . . . Received a pilot Weighed and came to sail a musket was fired aCross us out of the bushes opposite the Schooner No Doubt but with An intention to Kill somebody on board – The liberty flag was hoisted on Tybees Island on the Top of the Light house – At 5 fired 1 Gun Shotted and brought to a Ship from Jamaica – Made sail – A Great Swell – dischargd the pilot – . . .

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY ¹

(Copy)

Saint John Schooner Georgia 18th June 1775

Sir All communication with Admiral [Samuel] Graves being either out of, or rendered uncertain and precarious by the disorder and confusion which for some time past has reigned throughout this Continent, I am to request the favour, that you will be pleased to lay before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the

inclosed Copy of my last Letter to the Admiral, that their Lordships may form some idea of the disposition of the people in America. I have the honor [&c.]

William Grant

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Saint John Georgia 18th June 1775

Sir His Majesty's Schooner under my Command arrived here the 2d. Instant in order to prosecute the person suspected to have been concerned in the murder of David Martin in a Riot in February last a Seaman late belonging to His Majesty's Schooner under my Command; but the situation of the times are such as I am afraid prevents Justice from taking place this Colony being like all others through America in Anarchy and Confusion The Country People threatens to shut up this Port, if they don't its apprehended Carolinans will for them, it being generally reported and believed she means to march in upon Georgia, not only with that intention but also to make the Crown Officers as well as their own which they daily expect Prisoners of [or] hostages, and some people have been ordered to leave the province in seven days notice by the friends of Liberty as they call themselves The Eve of His Majesty's Birth Day some notorious people spiked up the Cannon and threw them over the battery down the cleft, as they had a few days before that robbed the Magazine of its Powder: In short it is with the utmost difficulty the publick Officers can now do their duty: Sir James Wright who is desirous of my remaining there some time until he sees how things are likely to turn out; called his Militia Officers together in order to know if they will stand by him in case Carolina should make him prisoner which he has private intelligence they mean to do, but how far he can depend upon them time only can shew. I beg leave to observe that provisions are not to be purchased here for Money, but my own particular interest I have luckily been able to procure a small supply for the *Saint John* and *Savage* Sloop, which I apprehend cannot be got in [New] Providence I am now collecting Materials for sheathing the Schooner as, also some other necessary stores she is in great need of. I flatter myself you will approve of my proceedings in these turbulent times when its impossible to adhere pointedly to the usual forms of service. Since the above the Honble John Stewart [Stuart] Superintendent of Indian Affairs, having had information of an intention in the Carolina Committee to seize his person, thought proper, to remove from Charles Town, to Savannah in Georgia where he imagined he would find safety, but two Members of the Provincial Congress then sitting at Charles Town were sent from thence, to inflame the minds of the people in Georgia, and to induce them, to secure him, pretending that he had used his influence to induce the Indians in his district (particularly the Cherokees and the Catawbass,) to fall upon the back inhabitants of the province and make a diversion to facilitate the landing of Troops said to be expected; these Emissaries succeeded so well, as to render it absolutely necessary for him to leave Savannah to avoid falling into the hands of a furious Mob, which he luckily effected in time enough by some Minutes, and requested of me, to carry him to St. Augustine, to which, with the approbation of Sir James Wright I consented: When Mr

Stewart took refuge on board the *St. John* for his safety, a Number of Canoes full of armed Men from South Carolina were lying at Pybees [Tybee] Island, the entrance of Savannah River, with what intention I know not, Soon afterwards a boat from Savannah with some of the principal people and leaders of the disaffected party attempted to pass by me, in order to join the Carolinians but I conceived it, to be for the good of His Majesty's Service, and my duty to prevent their meeting, and I accordingly obliged them to return, and immediately afterwards the Carolians in their Canoes went home. The next Morning a number of armed Men appeared on the beach and upon my making sail fired a Musket and hoisted the American Liberty Flag on Tybees Light House; I think proper to give you this information, by which it will appear that Anarchy and a total subversion of Government has taken place in Georgia as well as, in the other provinces as I think it my duty I shall continue to co-operate and comply with any requisitions made by the Governor and Council for the good of the Province, providing the same do not contradict, or clash with such Orders as I may have received from you, or my other superior Officers. I have the honor to be &c

William Grant

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

19 June

CAPTAIN EDWARD MEDOWS, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir,

Tartar Halifax June 19, 1775

I received your Letter of the 3d June the 14th of this month relative to the Guns for the Schooners, and the Dispatch of the Service, which I shall have great satisfaction in forwarding as much as I possibly can. I think it my duty to acquaint you, Sir, that his Majesty's Ship under my Command is rendered in a very weak state of defence by sending a Detachment of twenty men to do duty in the Yard, as we have only twenty eight remaining in a Watch, which I must (and hope you will) think is being too weak at such a time as this. I have applied to the commanding Officer of the Troops to know if he could spare men to do duty in the Yard, but he has informed me that they are so very weak that it is absolutely out of his power to give any assistance, so that I cannot help looking upon the Garrison here to be in a very weak state, and hoping that you will think more force necessary at so critical a time and where there is so great an Object to attend to as the Navy Yard must be at present. I have lent the *Halifax* some men to fit her rigging, and shall be happy to give every assistance in my power towards forwarding the Service at so material a time. I much fear, Sir, the Rebels have too many friends here, so that I suppose they will be made acquainted with the strength of the Garrison here which I should be afraid at present might give them great Encouragement to hope for Success, provided it continues in the weak State it is at present both by Sea and Land, which Consideration made me think it my duty at this time to point out the weak State of the Ship at present; but for the number of men we have, Sir, I have the Satisfaction to think we should do as much as could be expected from us with great Chearfulness and good Will. We have lost one of our Masters Mates, Sir, and the Master himself is in a very declining way, so that we are weak at present with regard to Officers as well as

Men. I have inclosed the State and Condition of his Majestys Ship under my Command, and am Sir &c.

Edw^d Medows

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 129, 130, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown], Monday, June 19, 1775

Resolved, That nine o'clock to-morrow morning be assigned for the consideration of the Report of the Committee on the establishing armed Vessels.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM C. BURNABY,
H.M.S. *Merlin* AT MARBLEHEAD ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 19 June 1775

I have received your Letters June 17. Your Boatswains and Carpenter's demands are approved, and the *Hopes* Tender carries the Stores round: The Gunners Stores demanded are not to be had, I am informed that in general they wish to have the appearance of being compelled to authorize their bringing Wood to Boston, I have therefore inserted Wood Vessels among those you are to send round, but you may assure all such that they will be paid a Market Price, and be allowed to return again without any Interruption from Pressing or otherwise.

I am very glad you have got all the Bread from Salem which was demanded for the *Merlin* and I desire you will get as much more as you can without Risque. I am &c.

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 443, MassHS Transcript.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 19th. [June, 1775]

Yesterday three Gondolas (large flat boats, sides raised and musquet proof) came up Mistick River or Bay, the Water on our right, where they still remain; they cover that flank and now and then take a shot at the fellows who come down among the ruins to fire at our Men at Work; had these boats been with us on Saturday at the time of the Attack they cou'd have been of great use, as they wou'd have taken a part of the Rebels intrenchment in flank and in their retreat wou'd have cut off numbers; instead of that they were on the other side and of no manner of use.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 61-62.

DIARY OF PETER EDES ¹

[Boston] June 19, 1775. About eight o'clock in the morning, being in Edes & Gill's office,² three men belonging to the ships of war appeared round the office and having been previously informed of their pressing every person into the service who happened to fall in their way, I ran out of a back door which conducted into the lane that led to my father's house, thither I repaired; but the bloodhounds were immediately informed of my retreat and speedily followed me, and the

dwelling almost instantly surrounded by sailors and three officers. I soon was made a prisoner, and had the misfortune to find myself in the hands of the most unfeeling and worthless set of men, – one of whom upon first discovering me cried out, “I have found the damned rebel.” The fellow had a cutlass drawn in his hand, and pulled me to the officers, one of whom was Capt. Lindsay; ³ he asked me where Mr. [Benjamin] Edes was, I answered he was out of town; he replied, that I was a damned liar, and that I had better tell him; he repeated the question, I answered as before; he asked me if I was Mr. Edes the printer’s son, I told him I was; upon which he ordered me with him; observing that he was commanded so to do, I said it was very well, and followed him. After we had got to New Boston, he asked me what my father had been writing to me, I replied nothing; then what I had been writing him – nothing; he said, “I was right in saying so, but that he would be damned if he would believe me.” We afterwards proceeded towards the Admirals,⁴ and passing by my father’s house, Lindsey discovered Mr. Starr with a firelock; upon which he ordered me to stop, for there was a trooper with a firelock. He was soon brought where I was, and both placed in the centre of a circle formed of six sailors, who were as hardened and inhuman as Turks, and were commanded to go on. Being a little animated I said, Capt. Lindsey, I should be much obliged to you, if you would carry me to the General’s,⁵ and see whether he will release me, or what he will do with me. He said he was not to go where I pleased, but that I should go where he pleased to carry me, “and damn you, if you ask me another question, I’ll knock you down, by God.” He then sent us to the Admiral’s, with an officer and a few sailors; when we were before the Admiral, he asked me my name: I replied Edes; he said I looked like a dirty villain, and ordered his officer to carry us to the provost, with orders to hang us immediately; but looking round he saw a sailor with a firelock, upon which he asked the officer if it was found with us; being informed it was, he ordered his officer to carry us to General Gage, and he would know what to do with us. When we came before his excellency, Harry Rooke, one of his aid-de-camps, asked me how many more firelocks I had in the house, I replied, five or six more for aught I knew, for I was ignorant of that one being there; he told me that I would wish I had given it up; another officer called a serjeant of the horse, and ordered him to draw his cutlass and carry us back to the Admiral’s, but observed to him, if we offered to run, (made a sign by drawing his hand across his throat;) we set off, but soon an officer overtook us, and gave us orders to stop. The serjeant ordered us to lay on the ground, and in about a quarter of an hour another officer came and acquainted us that we must go to the General’s again, which we did, and tarried there about half an hour, after which they called a corporal, gave him a billet, and ordered a file of men to take us to the provost; and to fall into the hands of a more worthless, infamous fellow, I don’t wish my enemies.

1. *A Diary of Peter Edes, The Oldest Printer in the United States, written during his confinement in Boston by the British one hundred and seven days in the year 1775, immediately after the Battle of Bunker Hill. Written by himself.* [Bangor, Samuel S. Smith, Printer, 1837], 8. Hereafter cited as *Edes Diary*.

2. Benjamin Edes and John Gill, publishers of *Boston Gazette and Country Journal*. Edes had escaped from Boston to Watertown in the Spring of 1775, where *Gazette* was continued.

3. Captain John Linzee, of H.M.S. *Falcon*.
4. Vice Admiral Samuel Graves.
5. General Thomas Gage.

“REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY’S SHIP *Rose*”¹

June 1775 Flag Staff at the Fort [George] S b W
 Monday 19 A M Stopt the Brigg *Royal Charlotte* Jno Nowls Master from
 Jamaica with rum and Sugar Do the Brigg *Polly* Jno Tryer Mastr
 from Philadelphia with Flour & Bread Sent a Mate & 2 Men in
 the *Polly* to Carrey her to Boston

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N.¹

On His Majesty’s Service Newport, June 19th, 1775

Sir, Agreeable to information lodged with you in writing of 6th Inst. that I expected from Philadelphia in the Brig. *Charlotte*, John Fryers Master, three hundred cask of Bread, thirty Barr’s Pork and some Flour, for the use of the Contract which I agreed with Mr. George Gibbs to import for that purpose, and accordingly last week advanced him fifty pounds lawfull money in part payment for the same, Mr. Gibbs now informs me those articles are come agreeable to his Contract, but that you have determin’d to send the greater part round to Boston.

It therefore becomes my duty to inform you in behalf of the contractors, if I am deprived of receiving this Bread (being the only resource I have left) it will greatly distress the Contract and wholly put it out of my power to comply with the future Demands of any of His Majesty’s Ships on this Station in the article of Bread.

I therefore rest upon the protection of Captain Wallace in behalf of the Contractors, and could wish it was expedient with His Majesty’s Service, that the whole of the Bread might be retained here for the use it was imported for. I am &c.

Chris. Champlin

[Endorsed] Copy letter James Wallace Esq. Commander of His Majesty’s Ships of Warr, at Newport.

1. Ford, ed., *Commerce of Rhode Island*, II, 24.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

(Copy) *Rose*, Rhode Island 19th June 1775

Sir, Since my last, of the 5th Instt I had information of this Colony’s fitting out Arm’d Vessels from Providence to attack the King’s Ships – Report says a Brig of 18 Carriage Guns, 200 Men, a Sloop of 14 – 80 Men and four or five other smaller, besides two fitting out at New London, and two at Dartmouth – In consequence of this, I sent the two packets out different ways to reconnoitre; Unluckily One of them fell in with two of their Sloops, and after an Action of half an Hour was run onshore, the particulars of which is inclosed, given me by the Officer who commanded Onboard – At this time I had four or five Vessels loaded

with Provisions upon the point of Sailing to Boston, the Owners agreeing with me for their Proceedings – After settling this matter and hearing the Pirates were at Anchor about four Leagues from Us – I got under Weigh as secret as possible, expecting to fall upon them by Surprise – However they got Intelligence and moved higher up towards Providence in shallow Water, where it was not proper for us to pursue them – On our return to Newport we found a great number of the Towns People had taken advantage of our absence, Arm'd a number of Boats and Vessels – taken the Victuallers, carried them to Town, dismantled & unloaded them, and this done in the space of two or three hours. this procedure, together with their behaviour on hearing of an Action in the Massachusetts Bay – sending every assistance of Men, Provisions & ca to the Rebel Camp, their Public Acts of Assembly all demonstrate they are as much in Rebellion, as [Israel] Putnam and his Camp – One of the Brigs sent loaded with Rum and Sugar, belongs to a [William] Vernon, as great a Rebel as any in the Country who was upon his March to the Camp when he heard of the Detention of his Vessel.

Sign'd Ja^s Wallace

Inclosed are Copies of Letters that pass'd between me and a Man who calls himself Lieutt. Governor

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

MR. SAVAGE GARDNER'S REPORT TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N.¹

(Copy)

Particulars of an Action between the *Diana* Packet a Tender belonging to His Majesty's Ship *Rose*, and two Armed Sloops belonging to the Rebels.

The 15th June 1775 about 9 O'clock A M. being ordered by Captain Wallace to proceed with the *Diana* Sloop, a Tender to His Majesty's Ship *Rose*, up the River towards Providence with a Petty Officer, eleven Men and Myself, armed with Small Arms and four Swivels to reconnoitre the different Passages, having Intelligence of Armed Vessels being fitted out by the Rebels at Providence.

The 16th. P.M. about half past 5, as I was standing off between the North end of Connecticut [sic! Conanicut] Island and Gold Island between two and three Leagues from the Ship, a Sloop coming before the Wind, I lay'd too to speak her – a little after six being within hail, She hail'd Us and told Us to bring too or she would sink Us immediately and directly fired a shot which we returned with our Small Arms and Swivels and kept a smart fire on both Sides for near half an hour, till by accident the Powder Chest with the remainder of the Swivel Cartridges blew up – In this Sloop we saw six Carriage Guns mounted and a great number of Men Onboard² – The Ammunition for the Small Arms being near expended and another Armed Vessel with Carriage Guns belonging to the Rebels joining and bringing Us between two fires, so that there was no possibility of saving the Vessel – I thought it prudent to run her ashore which I accordingly accomplished near the North end of Connecticut and got onshore with the People and part of the Small Arms – They immediately landed a number of Men from the Vessels in whale Boats who closely pursued and fired at Us – being so closely

pursued and night coming on thought it necessary to separate and conceal Ourselves till a proper Opportunity offered of joining the Ship which was accomplished the next day without the loss of one Man. Mr Stevenson the Petty Officer and one Men being the only People that were hurt occasioned by the Powder Chest blowing up – During the course of the Engagement the People behaved with the greatest Spirit.

Sign'd Savage Gardner Master

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

2. "On the 15th of June, 1775, while Sir James Wallace with the British Ship of War, & a Number of Tenders lay in Narragansett Bay – I was appointed by the Legislature of the Colony of Rhode Island to the Command of a Sloop of 12 Guns, & a Tender of Six, in Order to Clear the bay of the Enemy's Tenders, & open a Communication to the Sea for the Numerous Vessells which had long been blocked up in our Harbours & Rivers, By my Exertions on the first day of my Command I had the Good fortune to take one of the British Tenders & Cleared the Bay of the Remainder whereby the principal part of our homeward bound Vessells arived Saif without opposition, & they day became memorable for the first Shot that was fired on Water in defiance of the British Flag, which I Ventured to do at no small Hazzard from a sence of my Countrys wrongs, & at a time when no other Man in the Colony would undertake the Hazardous business lest he should be destined to the threatned Cord." Abraham Whipple's petition to Congress, January 24, 1796, Solomon Sibley, Manuscripts, Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library. This source is hereafter referred to as Whipple's petition. Whipple's claim to having fired the first shot on water in defiance to the British flag is incorrect. The *Margaretta* had been taken four days before off Machias.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, JUNE 19, 1775

Newport, June 19.

Last Thursday [June 15] one of the Providence packets, which had been arbitrarily seized by, and detained as a tender to, the men of war in this harbour, was sent up the Bay, 'tis supposed, to take a vessel which 'twas reported had gone up the back side of Connanicut; but unluckily she met with two arm'd vessels which fired upon her so warmly that she was obliged to turn tailto, but not being able to get off, the people stuck her ashore on the north end of Connanicut, and left her; she was immediately got off, and carried away, most probably to be delivered to her *proper* owner. This happened just before sunset.

Last Friday evening when the men of war in our harbour were shifting their watches, a number of musket-balls were fired into the town, one of which entered a closet window of a house on Gravelly-point, just to the northward of the Long wharf, went through the closet-door, and made a considerable dent in a door in the opposite corner of the room adjoining the closet; by which one or two persons narrowly escaped being killed or wounded.

Last Saturday, it being reported that 2 American vessels of force, were lying in Narragansett Bay, Capt. [James] Wallace of the ship *Rose*, Capt. [James] Ayscough, of the *Swan*, and a Tender, came to sail, and first beat out within about 2 miles of the Light house, when they bore away, and ran up the river as far as Connanicut point, and took a peep down Narraganset Bay; but not discovering any vessels, they returned to their station in this harbour; while they were on this short, and unsuccessful cruise, a number of people boarded and carried off, 5 vessels, which men of war had taken, and left riding in the road.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEWPORT, DATED MONDAY, JUNE 19, 1775"¹

On Thursday last [June 15], as one of the packets which had been piratically seized and detained by Captain [James] Wallace, was cruising as a tender, in the Naraganset-Bay, in quest of plunder, as usual, she spoke with an armed sloop, fitted out by the colony for the protection of its trade, whose commander not answering in a tone sufficiently submissive, was fired upon by the tender; the compliment was returned with such effect as to put the Pirates into some confusion, and they endeavoured to make off, but were prevented by an armed packet boat, in the service of the colony, that had by this time come up; the pirates finding they could not escape, ran the vessel ashore on Connanicut, and went off with much precipitation. The firing on both sides continued some minutes, though none of our people was hurt, and but one of the pirates wounded. On board the packet retaken were found eight swivels, seventeen stands of arms, a number of pistols, cutlasses, cartouch-boxes, &c.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, Philadelphia, July 1, 1775.

New York Gazette, MONDAY, JUNE 19, 1775

New York, June 19 [1775].

Friday last [June 16] the *Mercury* Frigate, Captain [John] M'Carthy [Macartney], arrived at Sandy-Hook, in 14 Days from Boston: He was dispatched from thence by General Gage to order whatever Troops might arrive here from England or Ireland for Boston; and last Wednesday he luckily fell in with a Transport from Cork with Part, of the 44 Regiment bound into this Place; but she soon stood to the Eastward, and Captain M'Carthy now waits at the Hook to give the like Orders to the Rest of the Fleet that may arrive there.

JAMES MADISON TO WILLIAM BRADFORD¹

[Extract]

[Virginia] June 19th, 1775

My Dear Friend . . . A rumour is on the wing that the provincials have stormed Boston & with the Loss of 7,000 have cutt off or taken [Thomas] Gage and all his men. It is but little credited. Indeed the fact is extremely improbable: but the times are so remarkable for strange events; that improbability is almost become an argument for their truth.

. . . Our Burgesses from the County are not yet returned from Willmsbg. where they hold their Assembly. So I cannot give you any particulars of their proceedings. The news papers will do that I expect: I understand Lord Dunmore by deserting his Palace & taking Sanctuary on board the Ship of War, under the pretence of the fear of an Attack on his person, has surprized & incensed them much, As they thought it incredible he should be actuated on that occasion by the Motives he alledges. It is judged more likely to have proceeded from some intelligence or Instructions he has received from his friends or superiors to the North. It is said the Governor of N Caroliana has treated his Assembly nearly in the same manner. Some will have it that Lord Dunmore removed from Wmsbg. & pretended danger that he might with more force & consistency misrepresent us to the ministry. His unparralled malice

to the people of this Colony since the detection of his false & wicked letters, sent home at the time he was professing an ardent friendship for us must lead us to suppose he will do us all the Injury in his power. But we defy his power as much as we detest his Villany.

1. Hutchinson and Rachal, eds., *Madison Papers*, I, 152, 153.

20 June

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Tuesday, June 20, 1775

The Report of the Committee on the expediency of establishing armed Vessels, was considered. The Report is as follows, viz.

Resolved, That a number of armed Vessels, not less than six, to mount from eight to fourteen carriage guns, and a proportionable number of swivels, &c. &c. be with all possible despatch provided, fixed, and properly manned, to cruise as the Committee of Safety, or any other person or persons who shall be appointed by this Congress for that purpose, shall from time to time order and direct, for the protection of our trade and sea-coasts against the depredations and piracies of our enemies, and for their annoyance, capture, or destruction.

After debate, the matter was ordered to subside for the present.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1426, from Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston 20 June 1775.

All his Majesty's Ships and Vessels under my Command are in great want of Boats; Some are deficient in number; the whole, from the extraordinary Service continually required of Boats, are much out of repair – I find there are many in Town very fit for the King's Service; I beg your Excellency will be pleased to allow Me to order them to be put into the Charge of the Naval Storekeeper to be supplied by him to the Kings Ships as I shall direct, and to be paid for whenever any claimant legally impowered shall appear to demand it. I have the Honor to be with great regard and Esteem Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Copy

Boston 20th June 1775. –

Sir/ I have received yours in Regard to your being in great want of Boats, for the Ships and Vessels under your Command, I have no Objection to your proposal, and all those that can be found fit for your Service shall be Ordered into the Charge of the Naval Storekeeper, he becoming liable to pay for them whenever any Just Claimant shall appear.

I am with great Regard & Esteem Sir, &ca

P.S. You will be so good as send a proper person to receive the boats, and to take charge of them. –

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, H.M.S. *Asia* ¹

(Copy)

Boston 20th June 1775

Sir Having ordered the 4 last Regiments that Embarked from Ireland, to this place, and least any of the Transports should escape a Ship Cruising to order them here, I inclose you a Copy of their Orders, which I beg you to show to the Officer Commanding any of the transports that may put into New York, that they may immediately put to Sea again and proceed to Boston –

Messrs Watts, and McEvers of New York,² having Money in hand for the use of Government, and from a late Resolve of the Continental Congress, are intimidated from sending it to Boston; I am to beg the favour of you to receive it, and send it to the Paymaster General here as Opportunitys Offer; for which you have Inclosed letters to those Gentlemen, and which you will be so good as to deliver with your own hand, as they contain orders to pay you what Money they have –

I am with great Regard [&c.]

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. Agents to the Contractors for supplying money for His Majesty's forces in North America. For the resolution referred to see Journal of the Continental Congress, June 2, 1775.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

Boston 20th. June 1775

All the New York Vessels are pushing out as fast as possible, with every kind of Provisions; it might be of great use to us should your Cruisers search them, and where they found them laden, with Pork, Beef or any kind of Flesh Provisions, to send them here for the use of his Majesty's Troops.

I should likewise be glad you would Order your Officer that goes to New York, to speak to any of the Transports he may see bound there, and to order them to proceed immediately here, but not on any account to mention it at New York –

I am with great Regard &c

1. Gage Papers, CL.

DEPUTY GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE OF RHODE ISLAND TO SAMUEL WARD ¹

[Extract]

Providence June 20. 1775

The Men of War in Newport take every Thing they can get. An armed Sloop and Packet belonging to this Town went down the Bay and retook, after a small Engagement in Sight of the Ships of War, Thomas Lindsey's Packet, who had been turned into a Cruiser.

1. RIHS Mss. Collection, XVI, 137.

JABEZ BOWEN TO BENJAMIN MARSHALL AND BROTHERS,
PHILADELPHIA MERCHANTS ¹

[Extract]

Providence June 20, 1775

Our Government have order Two Cruizers to be equiped and sent out to protect our Trade. They have retaken Lindsays packett in sight of the Men

of War which Wallis² had fitted as a Tender. The Men of War have taken Mr. Gibbs Brigg loaded with Flour. They have put all the Flour on Board of the Men of War. for Fear that the Brigg should be Retaken and unloaded as several Vessels from the West Indies was a few Days ago. The Sloop has not yet Arrived that has my Goods on Board she stands a great Chance to fall into their Hands . . .

Jabez Bowen

1. Peck Mss., III, 41, RIHS.

2. Captain James Wallace, R.N., commanding H.M.S. *Rose*.

PHILIP WANTON TO MOSES BROWN¹

[Extract]

Newport 20th 6 mo 1775.

Respectd Friend I received Thine of the 19th Instant with the Letters inclosed, shall take particular care to forward them by the first convenient opportunity . . . [John] Waterman sailed Yesterday for Nantucket, has been dismissed several Days, The two Men of War and packet sailed at the same time, it is reported that they intend to convoy him, uncertain whether they are bound to Boston or intend back directly. Samuel Starbuck is expected hear if Waterman should be arrived shall acquaint thee by the first opportunity . . . thy Friend

Philip Wanton.

1. Moses Browns Papers, RIHS.

WILLIAM WILLIAMS TO THE CONNECTICUT DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

Dear Gent.

Leb[ano]n — 20 June 1775. 9 oClock at night

The Governors Letter You will receive by the Express, had introduced the Action commenced at Charlestown on Saty Morn'g last, & stopd to wait further Intelligences having then (a few hours since) a very broken Acct of the Matter, he will himself add I suppose what further is just come by Cap Elij. Hyde of this Town, the sum of his Information as I recollect it, is, viz about 1500, of the Massachusetts & Connecticut Troops by Order possesd Them selves of Bunkers Hill Fryday night, & had made great Progress, in intrenchments, by the Light of next morn'g but not prepared to use what small Cannon they had, soon as they were discovered the Ships within reach, & a number of floating Batterys mounted with Cannon, which had been prepared began a heavy Fire upon them, but did not greatly annoy Them at first, about Two thousand regular Troops also immediately crosed over to Charlestown, & set the Town in Flames in various parts (which all but a few scattered Houses is consumed) & approached to Attack the Hill, The Provincials sent of[f] for reinforcements & in the mean Time bravely repulsed the Enemy Recruits arrived before they had got very near, & kept their Fire tho perpetually fired upon, till the Enemy got within abt 15 rods & then gave it a full loose brodside as They conceive very great Destruction upon them mowing down whole ranks of them 12 deep, till They began to retreat apace, & the left of our Troops leapd their breastwork of a rail fence & pursued them fast abt 20 rods, when perceiving their own right gave way, (which tis found was occasioned by Genl [Seth] Pumroys [Pomeroy], ordering them, who were then in Front & had been on Fatigue all night faint & hungry,

to give back, intending only to make room for recruits just come up, but in the Confusion it was misunderstood & they all retreated on that wing) our Troops perceiving their right to be giving back, & at the same Time a large Detachment of the Regulars who had unperceived, made a large circular march to the westward partly across Greens Hill above Them forcing into their Post & Intrenchment which they had almost deserted, it was apparently prudent & necessary all to retreat which they did, without precipitation carrying off all their wounded men, & possessed themselves of Greens Hill next above Bunkers, which they are now holding & fortifying & have done much to strengthen, leaving the latter in possession of the Enemy which They are also fortifying, & firing of the Cannon continued by turns, when Mr Hyde left the Camp yesterday Mornng 10, oClo, some of our Soldiers Packs & Baggage fell into the Enemys hands, the Tools perhaps all & two or 3 field peices all they had with Them, as near as co'd be come at We had lost in all between 40 & 70 killd & 140 wounded, They have lost tis not doubted many more, but We know not the Number a man escaped from Boston says he saw them land 500 wounded Men, among our wounded is Colo [Thomas] Gardner dangerously in the groin & Hip, Lt Tho. Grosvenor of Pomfret, badly in the left hand, the author of my News knows not any Officer beside wounded & does not mention any killed.

The ardor of Dear Dr Warren cod not be restrained by the intreaty of his Brethern of the Congress &c & He is, alas! among the slain. may eternal Happiness be his eternal Portion. Genl [Israel] Putnams Regimts were all in the Action save Cap [Ebenezer] Moseley & [Samuel] Cowper who were absent on some other Duty. Our Troops are in exceeding high Spirits & their Resolution increases, they long to speak with them again & when the reinforcement was called for it was difficult to keep any back. it was reported & believed some hours, that Cap [John] Chester & Cap [Israel] Putnam [Jr.] were killed but is a mistake as to both I receive it that Genl Putnam commanded our Troops perhaps not in chief & tis said is wounded but believe tis not so. cannot learn who commanded the Regulars, nor who is killd among them.

The same night another Detachment of our Forces began to entrench on Dorchester Hill & a pretense of attack & resistance was made by the Regulars but nothing more done but firing & throwing Carcasses into Roxbury which did some Mischief to the Houses, but burnt none, & killd one Middletown Soldier. They have, tis said, ceased their Works by Genl [John] Thomass Order, but keep it guarded. What the next Effort will be we know not, but hope to be prepar'd to resist it, one thing hinted at in his Honors Letter is wanted much. Your most worthy Body, will not cease Your utmost in the Cause, which We are far from despairing of, have sketched this imperfect narative in great [blurred] & composed my self for that only. Your Wisdom & Time will be all imployed for the whole, for those in a nearer situation &c who must feel more sensibly than perhaps tis possible for remote Colonies.

We have & wish no quarrel with the King, but only the despotic Power of Parliament.

wod not another pathetic Address to the People of Great Britain, be of some Avail, & also to the People of Ireland.

We have great Reason to bless the Name of our God for so great a degree of success & advantage as we have had in the last as well as former Conflicts & to be deeply humbled for our Sins. We rejoice that you have supported a Day of Fasting &c.

I am Dr Gent. Your & our Countrys Friend &c

W^m Williams

Hon E Dyer Esqr &c

[P.S.] have heard Col [John] Hancock is impatient to get into the Army, I rather think his Duty calls him to abide where he is at present.

[Addressed] To The Honble Eliphalet Dyer Roger Sherman & Silas Deane Esqrs

P Express

1. U.S. Revolution Collection, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Martis, 9 ho., A.M. June 20th, 1775.

A Letter from Major General [David] Wooster, dated the 17th inst., was read and filed, and is in the words following, to wit:

[See Wooster's letter of that date.]

The Mayor of the city informed the President that without the aid of this Congress, Captain [George] Vandeput, of the Ship *Asia*, cannot get any small necessities for himself or his ship; and that Capt. Vandeput requests such aid of the Congress as may give him relief in the premises.

Ordered, That Abraham Lott, Esquire, be at liberty to supply Capt. Vandeput and the Ship *Asia*, with such small necessities as may be wanted from time to time.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 46–48.

CAESAR RODNEY TO THOMAS RODNEY ¹

[Extract]

Philada, June the 20th 1775

I am much pleased to hear you have Sold the Sloop and as time have but a verry Gloomy appearance I wish both the other Veshells were Sold, provided they were *well sold* – however you neglected to let me know what You are to get for the Sloop . . . I heard this after noon by Express from Rhode Island that a part of the Troops Expected at Boston from Ireland are arrived and Landed at Boston, and That the Remainder are looked for Every day as they Sailed together, I mean the first mentioned four Regiments with the Horse. Some of the Horse are also Come and landed; the above news I Believe is true and believe after they have had a few days to recruit from their Voige we may Expect warm work, and warm it will be I dare say, for we Just had an Express from our provintial Camp Whoe informs of a Truth that we have there Eighteen Thousand men ready to Receive the Regulars, and indeed wishing they may

Come out – provided they intend to persist in their oppression; I wish our new Generals were at the Camp.²

1. Rodney Papers, HSD.

2. Referring to George Washington and Charles Lee, who were soon to leave Philadelphia for Cambridge.

WOOLSEY AND SALMON TO STEPHEN SKINNER, AMBOY¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 20th June 1775

Annexed you have Coppy of what we wrote you the 8th Inst under Cover by Privet hand to Mr C[lement] Biddle. yesterday we recd your favr of the 9th Inst and note the Contents. we are Surprised you had not recd ours And that we had not an Answer from you Ere this, but much more that yours of the 29th of May is never Come to hand. the bill Shall meet due honour & are thankfull to you for the trouble you have taken in this Matter & when in our power Shall return it. We find the protest Capt [James] Green has Made by no Mains Sufficient therefore request you forwarding Every perticular paper properly Attested to Mr Geo: Darley Mercht Dublin Immediately, to Enable him to Recover the Insurance, indeed we are More Disatisfyed with Green than we last wrote you, for to Add to our loss he has taken a Man more from your place than he had ocaion for, however at the Distance we ware we Could not Remedy our Selvs.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION OF ACCOMAC COUNTY, VIRGINIA¹

At a meeting of the Committee held in Accomack County on Tuesday, the 20th of June, 1775.

James Henry, Esq., Chairman

Whereas the trade carried on in small vessels in any of the rivers or creeks in this County, or goods imported by any of the merchants or traders here from any port or place in America may be productive of very evil consequences, if not under proper regulations: For remedy whereof,

Resolved unanimously, That every Master or Owner of a Vessel having any goods on board for sale, or any Merchant or Trader residing here having imported any goods, wares, or merchandise, from any part of America, shall not sell any goods or merchandise, or part with the same in exchange for any commodity whatever, unless they produce a certificate from the Committee of the County from whence they were brought to this Committee, that the same were imported into America agreeable to the terms of the Association of the General Congress.

Ordered, That this resolution be published in the *Virginia Gazette*.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1031.

South Carolina Gazette, TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1775

Charles-Town, June 20.

On Saturday Evening last [June 17], his Excellency the Right Hon. Lord William Campbell, Governor in Chief, &c. of this Province, with his Lady and

Family, arrived here in the *Scorpion* Man of War from England: His Lordship was saluted on his Arrival by the *Tamar* Man of War, by Fort Johnson, and the several Forts in Town; and about One o'Clock the next Day, his Lordship landed at Champneys's Wharf, where he was received by several Gentlemen; and also by the Grenadier Company under Arms; the Regiment of Militia were likewise under Arms: From the Wharf his Lordship walked in Procession, preceded by the Grenadier Company, to the State-House, where his Commission was read and published in the Council-Chamber, in the Presence of some of the Members of his Majesty's Council, &c. from whence he returned in the same Order to the Exchange, where it was again read; after which his Lordship and the whole Company repaired to the State-House, where a genteel Entertainment was provided on the Occasion.

GOVERNOR SIR JAMES WRIGHT TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

No 51

Sav. in Georgia 20 June 1775.

My Lord, The Liberty people have now got another pretence for raising men, they assert that Mr. [John] Stuart the Superintendant has been endeavouring to raise the Cherokee Indians to come down against them, this they alledge that they have got undoubted proof of, and all he can say will not convince them to the Contrary, his Friends in Charles Town gave him a hint, and he left that and came here but they sent some of their party here who have so inflam'd & enrag'd our People, that he did not think himself safe, and His Majesty's armed Schooner *St. John* having put in from [New] Providence, he went on board her & I suppose by this time is saild for St. Augustine. And several Boats full of men from the Carolina side, have been down at our Inlet some days, the Accounts differ as to No. some call them 50 others 80 all well & completely arm'd. Some alledge their intention was to seize on Mr. Stuart which very probably was part of their errand, But I believe they have another point in view and that is 3 Vessells being expected here from London and a considerable quantity of Gun Powder being on board for the Indian Trade, they intend to seize on that & carry it to Carolina and this is certainly in their power to do and its not possible to prevent it, if attempted and one of these Vessells arrived here on Saturday the 18th inst. & the Capt. one Ash informs me that several Boats lay off a little way from him & that one with 3 or 4 men came on board and one of them inquir'd whether he had any Gun Powder on board and on showing his Cockets and their finding he had none they behaved very civilly and went away, but made great inquiry after another ship one Maitland who has a large quantity of Gun Powder on board and it is said they intend to watch our Inlet till the others come and to take out all the Gun Powder And if that is the case I am much afraid it will embarass us with the Indians for they have for some time being very impatient for their usual supplies and in order to pacify them I have told them that the difference we had with them last year prevented the Merchants from sending for goods, that none was wrote for till after our disputes were settled in Octr last and that it takes a great while for ships to carry letters and orders from hence to England and that then the goods would be to make (I told them this to gain time) and afterwards be sent here and that sometimes ships had very long passages and we would not depend on a supply till late in the summer and with this they were tolerably well satisfied, but if they are

now disappointed they will conclude we have some design against them and I can't tell what may be the consequence for they are a very jealous suspicious people and as they have been told by the Chickesaw Indians that the White people are going to join the Chactaws against them it may confirm that report and thus Your Lordship sees the state we are in in every respect and no King's Sloop or Cruizer heard of yet. By the inclosed Paper Your Lordship will see the extraordinary Resolves by the People of Charlotte Town Mecklenburg County and I should not be surprized if the same should be done every where else. I have the honor to be [&c.]

Ja. Wright

1. *Collections of the Georgia Historical Society*, (Savannah, 1873) III, 189.

21 June

MAJOR JOHN TUPPER, ROYAL MARINES, TO JOHN MONTAGU, LORD SANDWICH ¹

My Lord The 17th. Inst. part of the Troops at Boston to the Number of about two thousand being Order'd to attack a Redoubt and the very Strong holds which the Rebels had in this place, the First Battalion of Marines being Included, Major [John] Pitcairn took the Command and Order'd me from the 2d. Battalion to Serve under him on this Occasion. I have now the honor to inform your Lordship that the Officers and Men of the Marine Corps shewed on this Occasion the greatest Intrepidity and Valour, for notwithstanding the incessant fire from the Rebels, they Surmounted every difficulty that is usual in this inclos'd Country, and were some of the first that got into the Redoubt tho they were oppos'd by a great body of Men and a heavy fire from the place, the taking of which decided the Affair in our favor, as they were Oblig'd to retreat, but My Lord the honor the Corps acquired in that Day was very much damp'd by the loss of Many brave Officers who then fell – in particular that of Major Pitcairn, who was wounded a few Minutes before the Attack was made on the Redoubt and he died about two or three hours after, his loss is greatly regreted by the whole Corps who held him in very great Estimation. Inclos'd is a Return of the Kill'd and Wounded of our Battalion.

I take the Liberty to recommend to your Lordship favor Lieut. Jesse Adair who went with us as a Volunteer; as belong'd to the 2d Battalion, he was as I am inform'd the first who got upon the Redoubt and Shew'd the Example to others to follow him. he is the Eldest Lieutenant here. Lieut & Adjutant Waller distinguished himself also in a particular Manner; I must also recommend to your Lordship favor Mr. Thomas Simms and Mr. Samuel Davys Bowman both Volunteers the latter was Wounded.

Major Short is at present Confin'd with a flux, the Command of both Battalions is now under my Orders untill his Recovery. I have not included the private Men kill'd in the Grenadiers & Light Infantry Companys not having been able to obtain a Return as yet, they doing duty with those of the Regiments.

I have the honor to be My Lord [&c.]

Jn^o Tupper

Charles Town Hill Camp near [Boston] 21st June 1775

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston 21st of June 1775

I had the Honor of your Excellency's Letter of Yesterday. The Cruizers have Orders to send in every Vessel that has any sort of Provisions On board, however I have wrote to Captain [George] Vandeput this Morning and have given him such directions, that if any Vessels are moving with Beef or Pork we shall certainly get hold of them.

Your Excellency's desire respecting the Transports shall be punctually complied with. I have the Honor to be with great regard Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Preston, Boston] 21st [June 1775]

The *Falcon* Sloop . . . sailed in Company with the *Resolution* Transport for Piscataqua with Orders to put all the Cannon and Artillery Stores in the Forts there on board and return to Boston.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 120, MassHS Transcript.

JOHN BROWN TO MOSES BROWN ¹

Dr Brother

Providence June 21st, 1775

Your kind favour of the 16th Inst is before me, I am Really Sorry that my takeing out a writt against Capt. [James] Wallace should be so disagreeable to Your Centiments. if I am not Much Mistaken I said in Your presents more than once that I was Determined to take the Law of him Either here or in England, and should have done it Sooner had I have Determined which would Likely have proved the most to my Interest, but the more I thought of it the More Convinced I was that he ought to be Servd here, and that his being Obloiged to give Bale in so large a Sum of Money would take of[f] So much of his Haughtey Beheaver when he Considerd that the more he Opressed the Colony or its Inhabitants, the Larger the Sum would be Recoverd against him and if it should have this Effect (which I think Very Likely it would) in Lue of the Disadvantage which you Seem to fear nought in Consequence theirof Arise to my and my Friends Interest it would so far bring him to his thoughts as to allter his Tirannicol Measures, Espetially when he Considerd that what ever was Recoverd would be wholly out of his own Estate & what he should take without Law or Right, would not be of advantage to him, as his Estate at Home, (tho he Could not be Tacen here) would be Subject for the payment theirof with Dammagis, I have not the Lest doubt but that the Admiral ² Expected I should have made a demand of Wallace, for his unpresedented Conduct towards me, or he would not have Desired me in so particuler a Manner as he Did on our partg to meet Capt. Wallace, in the most Friendly Manner & that we Should Settle the Matter in the best Manner possable which I had Determined to do my part towards but after hearing of his Reputed threats and knowg that aney other procedure with him but Such as the Law would warrent



John Montagu, Fourth Earl of Sandwich. By Thomas Gainsborough, 1783.

would be in Vain, Theirfore took out the Writt as advised you, and am Really Sorry that it Could not have bin Served being Convinced in My Own Mind that it would have had the Same Affect on him as Servg others of his Stamp haith here tofore had & when he was once Shewn that he was not Impregnable he would have Conducted him Self in Quite a Different Manner from what he has –

Did he not threaten Fire & Devastation to the Town of Newport if they offerd to Lift their hands in favr. of the Rebbils, as he Calls them, but in Lue of this have not their bin a Number of Men Inlisted their for the Army among which he well knew was a Number of his Men who had Left his Ship, why had he not fired on the Town till he had them Returnd to him, did not the People Rise & take away a Quantity of Flour which had bin purchased for him & what was the Consequence why in Lue of making him [mad] was it Struck him with Such Fear and Consternation that he in Lue of ordering the Ships to Fire was, I am told as Complasant to the Sherrif when he made him Self known on the Ocation at Romes³ and Redely Agreed that the Flour Should be Returnd and that his Mareens should Immediately Return onbord in Order to Quiat the Town, as to our Ingaugement to the Admiral I hartely wish You was Clear of it, but as to my Self its but of Little Consequence as I am Contious that I have not Gone Counter theirot the Incorageing the packetts to be Retacen I did & still think I had a Just Right to do so, as it was only by the arbitrary hand of Wallace they were kep, Mr Lloyd has Wrote me 2 or 3 Letter wherein he Said that the Admiral was supprised that the packetts was not Deliverd up, I could not Expect to Act Such a part with Wallace after hearing from Saml Starbuck & others of the threats from him & his Officers concerng me, as would by Aney Means Influence him to suffer my Vessills to pass unmolested when he was stoping Every other persons property without Distinction, Therefore I was in hopes by haveing Vessills Cruising off that my Vessills as well as others might be made Acquanted with the State of the Times & by that Means not Run Directly into the Hands of our Imnameys

You See by Genl. [Thomas] Gauges proclimation that he makes no Distinction of persons Acceptg Two Gentlemen, and that all others is to be Deemed Equally Guilty who Doeth not forth with Drop the American Cause Either by bareing Arms or in Any Manner what ever Contributing towards the Assistance or Supplying the provintiale Troops, by this Can it be Expected that any whose Religus principles Doeth not Shield them, Can Conduct in Such a manner as Not to be Sencurable by the Troops from home, in Case of their Success, for my part I am so Clear in opinion that the Measures now taking to Force America are Rong that its out of my power to Restrain my Self from wishing Success to the Country in which I was Born, and alltho the Measures persuing are not agreeable to My Advice to our Assembly Soone after I Came hoome, which I'am now more than then if possible Convinced would have bin Infinitely better than to have fought it out, I Can not Rest a Quiet Spectator without Feelin^g for my own & Neighbours Interest & am Really of the Opinion that our Navigation Will not be in so Great Danger if we Indevour to prevent the Crusing of the packetts to take them & keep Vessills of our own out to

advise them how to Steere Clear as it otherwise would be, but as to the General Assembly having orderd Two Vessills to be Imployd in that Service, I hope I shall give you no further uneseyness on this head Tho I suppose you'l agree that it would be Right in Me to Git advice if possible to my Vessills as they Come in to keep out of the hands of the men of warr, but this will be Very Difficult as Long as they have Armed Vessills Crossing for them and Indeed I cant Expect persons to be off Lukg. Out for our Vessills as they Come in, with out being able to Defend them Selves if Attacked by the Packett armed by the Men of warr, I am Very Sorry the writ Should have prevented Your doing our Mutual Friend Jno Waterman all the Service in Your power, but weither aney thing You Could have Said to so Savage a person as Wallace would have bin of Advantage to Waterman I Cant Say, but by his brutel beheaver with the Friends onbord Capt Durfeys Sloop in Detaining them So long onbord, Your Applicaction would have bin Fruteless, Thus much I can tell You that Capt Waterman Sent me his particuler thanks by Cozen Jams Brown on Acct of the packets being Retacon, She being the Same that tuke him & brot him in to the Man of Warr. I am of the opinion that Wallace will Let Waterman Leave the Fleet as he passes by Nantuckett & this on acct of the Advertisement in the paper of the Continental Congress advising no provitions to be Supplyd to the Island of Nantuckett only from the Massachusetts, Suppose you have heard of Wallace Ayscough & the Tenders all going out of Newport the day before Yesterday with Several prizes. I am shure I never ought to forgit Your Friendship & Goodness in what you did for my Redemption and am So much Obloiged & Indebted to You therefor, that perhaps I may never have it in my power to Discharge the Least part of said Debt, & I assure You it Gives me pain that You Should Suppose that Either your Carrector or Fortin may in the Least Suffer on my Acct

as to Ransomes in warr Times I am apt to think they are of a Different Nature by Law from an obligation given in my Scituation when onbord the Man of Warr, but Let this be as it May if our Estates are all to be forfeited in Case of Conquest it matters not so much, but this I do not Expect will Ever Happen neither that Yours or aney part thereof will be Ever Demanded on Acct of Said Obligations

as to your Laying before the Town or Committee the Terms on which I was Dismissed or writg, the Admiral aney thing on said Head, I Do not See to be Nessessary but if you think other wise I will Cheerfully Submitt to your better Judgment & be perfectly Satisfied with Your Conduct theirin, as to my bareing Arms my Self I do not expect to do it only in my own Defence or if this Town Should be Attacked I shall in Either of these Case's most Certinly Defend the Same to the utmost of my power

I am much Obloiged for Your Advice in Every particuler & Shall take it kind at all times when You or aney of Your Friends are in Town that You'l make as Free of My House as tho at Your own,

I am your Affectionate Brother –

John Brown

P.S. I should have bin Glad of an oppertunity to have Consulted You about the writt before I tuk it out but your being for Sum time together about that time from home prevented

[Endorsed] Brother John/ 21st 6th mo 1775

1. Moses Brown Papers, RIHS.
2. Vice Admiral Samuel Graves at Boston.
3. George Rome, Tory resident of Newport.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*"¹

June 1775

Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour

Wednesday 21 at 1 P M made Sigl for all Cruizers . . . at 2 Anchd the *Swan & Charlotte* Tr [Tender] with . . . 2 Small Sloops & a Schooner with 47 Punchns Rum which they Seiz'd,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

SAMUEL STRINGER, CHAIRMAN OF THE ALBANY COMMITTEE, TO THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

(Copy)

Albany Comee Chamber June 21st 1775

Gent. Mr Dirick Swart a member of this Board, who is just returned from Crown-Point, brings the following intelligence; that one Mr Hay who lives about 40 miles up Lake Champlain came down to Crown-Point, who told Colo [Benedict] Arnold and others that he had been to Montreal for some flour, that Governor [Guy] Carleton had him Seized, and Confined for several days; that by the interposition of the English Merchants of that place he received Liberty to return Home, & that the Merchants who procured him the pass from the Lieutenant Governor desired him to go down to Crown-point and Ticonderoga with all Speed, and to Communicate to the Commander of those Fortresses that the French Caughnewagie Indians had taken up the Hatchet, but that they refused to go out upon any Scouts untill nine of their men who were then out returned; and that Governor Carleton was giving them presents daily.

We are very sorry to inform you that from a number of Corroborating Circumstances, we have but too much Reason to believe the above Information to be true, and more Especially as the Troops which Amounts to about Six hundred men, Suffer no persons coming up the Lake to pass St John's if they can avoid it, where they are building Floating Batteries and Boats; Mr Swart also acquaints us, that Mr Hay said, that Governor Carleton had asked the English Merchants to take up Arms against the *Yankees* to make use of his own phrasiology, that the Merchants refused, upon which he told them that he would set the Town on fire; which the Merchants said he was welcome to do, and added they could carry as much fire as himself. Mr Hay also desired Mr Swart if he should happen to meet Mr Price, he should request him not to proceed, as the English Merchts in Canada, conceived it unsafe for him.

The forces above are in no proper State of Defence, principally owing to the scarcity of Powder, of which Article we have not yet been able to send up more, with the Supply we have received from New-York, than three hundred and fifty pounds; wch quantity is altogether insufficient to answer the purpose intended,

and of little Service in Case of an Attack – We can further inform you this City is not half supplied; nor have the frontier Inhabitants either powder or Arms; for which Applications have been made, and daily are making to us; and as we have no prospect of any further supply from New-York, we beg to be assisted if possible from Lower Governments with all the Dispatch possible.

We should also desire that the Command at the Forts, might be settled Colo [Benjamin] Hinman we understood would have taken the Command, but by his appointment, from Governor [Jonathan] Trumbul, his Orders are only to Reinforce the Garrisons and Command his Regiment; upon which Colo Arnold refused to resign; We therefore Conceive it highly necessary that a Matter of such Importance should be sett'led with all Speed. The above we are also informed by Mr Swart, who was present and heard each read the others Instructions we thought it our indispensible Duty to acquaint you of these matters, and therefore send them you P. Express.

We are Gent. [&c.] By Order of the Committee

Sam^l Stringer. Chairman

1. President's Letter Book, III, 422–425, LC. The original is in Papers CC, 67, I, 9, NA. See Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 107–110 (June 26 and 27, 1775) for action on the foregoing.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH, MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Wedn 21 June 1775

Last week the Inhabitants had Intelligence that the *Mercury* Man of War was off the Hook with Orders to direct all Transports coming here with Troops from Ireland to proceed to Boston & that she had fallen in with several & communicated General [Thomas] Gage's Orders for this Purpose, which gave much Satisfaction to the Town, become thin of Inhabitants upon Apprehension of Hostilities on their Arrival especially as the Congress of this Province had required General [David] Worster [Wooster] to march here from the Eastern Confine of this Province where he had been ready with 2500 of the Connect Levies.

1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, 228c.

WALTER LIVINGSTON TO ROBERT LIVINGSTON, JR., ¹

[Extract]

Having intelligence that administration in[ten]ded to send 2000 men to this City and expecting [they] would arrive soon, our Congress sent to General Woocester ² and desired him to march with the troops under his command, within five miles of this place subject to the command of our board. The day after we sent, the packet arrived, we sent for the Capt. who informed us, that he had spoken with the *Spy* man of War now a transport 30 leagues from the hook with three hundred men on board, who had informed him, that the *Mercury* frigate had ordered hi[m to Bos]ton That he (the Capt of the packet) afterw[ards] came up with the *Mercury* who gave him the same informa[tion] and that General [Thomas] Gage had ordered him to remain off the hook [a]waiting the arrival of the remaining transports whom he had ordered to send to Boston without delay.

Coll. Washington a good Soldier and a Man of sence (as fame reports him) is appointed Capt General & Commander in Chief of the American forces – ³

New York June 21, 1775

1. FDRL.
2. Colonel David Wooster.
3. Elected June 15, 1775, by the Continental Congress.

22 June

DIARY OF SIMEON PERKINS OF LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA ¹

Thursday, June 22d [1775], – Capt. Jabez Cobb arrives from Machias and reports a disturbance. The inhabitants took one of the King's ships,² killed the captain, and one Robert Avery, of Norwich, being forced to stand the deck, on board of her, was killed by a ball in the head.

1. Harold A. Innis, ed., *The Diary of Simeon Perkins, 1766–1780* (Toronto, 1948), p. 95. Hereafter referred to as Innis, ed., *Perkins' Diary*.
2. H.M.S. *Margaretta*.

“REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER” ¹

June 1775 A M came on board his Excellency Govr [John] Wentworth,
Thursy 22d saluted him with 17 Guns, 4 P M saw 2 Ships in the offing firing
of Guns Do answered with 3 Guns & sent the boat out, at 8 came
in His Majts Sloop *Falcon* & a Transport,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

BENJAMIN GREENLEAF TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen –

Newburyport June 22d 1775.

We understand that you have desird our Select Men to send the Town stock of Powder to Cambridge, saving only one pound for each Man – You, perhaps are not aware that we have lately deliverd four half Barls to the Order of the [Provincial] Congress & six more, to that, of the Comtee of Supplies; part of which, we were encouragd to hope shod. soon have been replaced – We have likewise furnished our Men who have joined the Army, and three large Parties, who were Volunteers on the several Alarms that have been made, with Cartridges sufficient for their Purpose; a considerable part whereof were never return'd: by these Means, our Stock is so much reduc'd as to occasion us great Uneasiness; inasmuch as it must prevent our executing some Plans, We had meditated for the public good: besides, many of our Inhabitants are apprehensive of Danger from Cutters & other armed Vessells; the Admiral having, as it is said, given out some Threats – We have been at considerable Expencc in preparing some light Cannon for Action, and We are now about erecting a small Battery or Breast-Work with 3 or 4 heavier Cannon which can be procurd, to defend ourselves against any Attacks by Water: But all that we have yet done & are about to do, will be to no purpose unless we can have a few Barrells of Powder ready at hand We are therefore very loth to part with the

little we have, unless the public Cause makes it absolutely necessary; in which case we shall readily give up the last Ounce, the Destruction of this Town being a trivial Matter, in our Estimation, when compard with a final Defeat of the Army – however as it can at any Time be conveyd to Cambridge in 8 or 9 hours from the Time of our having Notice, We hope it may be agreeable to let it remain here for the present, that so we may have the priviledge of using it in our own Defence, if there shod be Occasion, before it is wanted in the Army – By Order of the Committee of the Town I am Gentn [&c.]

B. Greenleaf

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 390.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

[Extract]

Preston Boston 22 June 1775

. . . In consequence of our being deprived of all Communication by Land, fresh Beef for the Squadron cannot be procured. Once we have had a Supply from Nova Scotia, but, almost this whole Country being our Enemies from Principle, it is with the greatest difficulty any Refreshments can be got; the few who from inclination or the Prospect of gain, are willing to supply us being very severely handled when discovered. Captain [John] Linzee in the *Falcon*, while he was at Tarpawlin Cove, procured about One hundred and eighty Sheep and hired a Brig to bring them hither, but being five days on their passage, with a very small quantity of Hay, fifteen of them died, and we have lost several since they were landed on Lovells Island in this Harbour.

On the 17th I received several Letters from Capt. [Andrew] Barkley dated from the 5th to the 16th of June, Copies of two only and of one referred to are inclosed; the whole Correspondence between him, Governor [John] Wentworth and myself prove that all legal authority in New Hampshire is entirely at an End, and that their Necessities and the impoverished state of the Country alone prevent their taking a more active part in the Rebellion. They will I am sure attempt to drive away or destroy the *Scarborough*, and I think, after planting Guns against their Governor's house and obliging him to retreat, firing at the Men of Wars boats and preparing to destroy the Kings Ship, little can be said in their favour. It is impossible but a few Individuals must suffer in a general punishment, but the necessity of sending all the provisions we can to Boston is plain; It deprives Rebels of the means to keep together, and supplies the King's Army, which in the present state of this Country must supersede all other Considerations . . .

Early in the morning of the 17th instant the *Lively* discovered several thousands of Rebels on the Hills over Charles Town who had thrown up an Intrenchment the preceding Night. Captain [Thomas] Bishop instantly fired among them and upon his Alarm they were attacked from Copse Hill Battery on Boston side. Preparations were also immediately made to dislodge them. The Troops accordingly landed in the Afternoon under cover of his Majesty's Ships *Lively*, *Glasgow* and *Falcon*, a Transport, a Sloop, and some Scows fitted by the General, but manned and supplied with ammunition from the Squadron. They attacked the Rebels and after a very obstinate defence carried their Intrenchments with great Slaughter. The King's Troops are now encamped on the

heights of Charles Town, and the Rebels are digging Intrenchments and erecting Works at some distance, apparently with a View to dispute every foot of Ground . . .

In obedience to their Lordships Commands I send the *Cerberus* to England with the Governor and my publick Dispatches, for which, on account of the late transactions, she has waited beyond the time first intended for her sailing . . . I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 121-125, MassHS Transcript.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE AT PLYMOUTH TO THE COMMITTEE OF THIS TOWN [PROVIDENCE], DATED THE 22D INSTANT [JUNE, 1775]"¹

We have a Letter come to Town from Saco, giving an account of two vessels, with Provisions from [Thomas] Gage, under the Protection of a Tender, having arrived at that Place, in order to exchange said Provisions for Lumber; the Committee of that Town considered of the Propriety of suffering them to trade, and from Necessity were obliged to admit them; after this they discovered great Partiality in Regard to the Persons with whom they contracted, which at once created such Uneasiness as to determine the People to seize the two Vessels, and fire the Cutter, which however they failed in; she hove up her Anchors, and proceeded down the River, some Distance from the Town, where she again anchored; but was soon so warmly attacked from the shore, as to be obliged to slip her Cables and push down: In her Way she boarded a small coasting Sloop, Capt. Tobey, from Sandwich, and obliged him to undertake the Pilotage of the Vessel out of the River; but before getting out, they boarded a Schooner, Capt. [Robert] Avery, from Norwich, and took him also on board; in the mean Time the People of Saco fitted out two armed Vessels, which pursued the Enemy, and soon after getting clear of the Land they discovered and made for each other; the Tender did not suppose them to be armed till they approached each other, when the Master threatened to discharge a brace of Balls through Capt. Tobey, unless he would swear to take up his gun in Defence of the Vessel; who replied, that as he engaged only as a Pilot, he should refuse; the Master then excused him, and threatened Avery in like Manner, and he was obliged to comply. The first Volley from our armed Vessels killed poor Avery, and the infernal Captain, which put the People into such Consternation that they descended into the Hold, cabin, &c. and were boarded and carried into Saco; the Number of Men taken on board the Tender is not mentioned; she had four three Pounders, 12 Swivels, forty or fifty Muskets, as many Cutlasses, and a Number of Pistols.

1. *Providence Gazette*, June 24, 1775.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN JOHN BROWN AND THE COMMITTEE IN BEHALF OF RHODE ISLAND¹

Providence June 22th 1775

An Agreement between John Brown on one part and the Committee in behalf of the Coloney for hiring & Fixing an Armed Vessill On the other part Viz

the said John [Brown] agrees to Lett to the Said Committee the Sloop *Catey* from the 12 Inst to the Latter part of December next at Ninety Dollers P Mo the Said Committee in behalf of the Colony to Resque the said Sloop at Four Hundred pounds LMony to be pd to said John on Demand after the Loss of Said Sloop, with Intt from this Day but in Case the Sloop should be Returnd to the said John She is to be in as Good order as she Now is, Common Ware & Tare, Excepted or if the General Assembly at their next Setting shall Chuse to purchess Said Sloop at Four Hundred pounds with Intt from this Day they have Liberty So to do or to Continue her on hire as above, what ever Expence the Said John has put to Said Sloop Since begun to Fix her for the Coloneys Use Viz since the 12 Inst Excepting only for Cordage, the Said Committee is to pay the Said Jno for

1. RIHS, Mss., vol. 6.

“REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY’S SHIP *Rose*”¹

June 1775 Moor’d in Rhode Island Harbour
Thursdy 22 P M Stopt the Sloop *Victory* Jno Kelly Msr from Whaling belongg
to Jno Brown of Providence.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

MASTER’S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY’S SHIP *Mercury*¹

Rem[ark]s &c Thursday 22d June 1775

A M Light Breezes and fair Sandy Hook NNW 5 or 6 Miles 11 A M Broght too with the Main Topsail to the Mast Spoak the *Pallas* Transport from Boston to [New] York.

3 PM wore ship and Broght too Spoak a Ship 9 Week from Belfast

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1866.

DANIEL DESAUSSURE TO HENRY LAURENS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Sir Beaufort 22d. June 1775

Capt [Clement] Lempriere Spared me a barrel of Pork & a Barrel ship Bread, for the use of the Militia when Cal’d here to Guard the powder, but the former not being used, was omitted to be put on board the Scooner that carried the powder, have therefore put it on board a Scooner of Mr Josiah Smith’s & Requested of him to Receive it for you – I am with Esteem [&c.] D: DeSaussure

1. Laurens Collection, SCHS.

23 June

“REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER”¹

June 1775 A M sent an Officer and Sixty men On shore to get the Guns from
Friday 23d the Fort, & to send them on board the above Transport.²

[P M] Emp[loy]d in getting the Guns on board the Transport.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. *Ibid.* The transport, escorted by the *Falcon*, sailed for Boston on June 29.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO JOHN WENTWORTH, GOVERNOR OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 23 June 1775

It gives me great Concern to learn by your Excellency's Letter of the 15th the necessity you have been under to retire from Portsmouth to Castle William and Mary. The People are guilty of such frequent and violent Excesses of Behaviour it is in my opinion highly dangerous for your Excellency to trust yourself any longer among them. Nothing appears plainer than the People of New Hampshire are determined implicitly to obey the General Congress, and, as far as the Condition of their Country will allow them, to follow the Steps of this Province, which is exerting its utmost Strength to destroy all the Kings Forces, and totally to abolish his Majesty's Authority within the Government.

I thank your Excellency for the four Pounders, these Guns and all others that can be got off are certainly much better in the hands of Government than in those of the Rebels.

From the necessity of cutting off Provisions from the Rebels and of supplying the Kings Troops in Boston, your Excellency and his Majesty's Officers and good Subjects will I fear unavoidably suffer some Inconveniencies, but Captain [Andrew] Barkley will continue his good Offices.

I really Sir had not Ships enough to spare another at Piscataqua. The *Scarborough* I hope will prove equal to all the Purposes of Government in that River at present, but I will add a Schooner as soon as possible. I am &c.

Saml Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 444, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, H.M.S.
Scarborough, PISCATAQUA RIVER ¹

Sir,

Preston Boston 23d June 1775

I have received your Letters June 5, 10, 13 and three dated the 16 instant, with Copies of your Correspondence with Governor [John] Wentworth. Upon considering the whole I can draw no other Conclusion than that the New Hampshire People are as perfectly disposed for Rebellion as those of Massachusetts Bay, and that they will endeavour by force or stratagem to drive you away or destroy you. The few good thinking People in Portsmouth no doubt naturally disavow such Outrages and base behaviour, and would gladly restore and support Order and legal Authority, but what are their feeble Efforts opposed to a whole Province under the worst influence?

Governor Wentworth has requested another Ship to be stationed in Piscataqua River; I know it would be of Service for the reason you have given, but I have not a Ship that I can appropriate to that Service, not even a Schooner at present, and I have accordingly acquainted his Excellency that I hope the *Scarborough* will be equal to every purpose of Government in that River, being satisfied you will do all that lies in your Power for his Majesty's Service, and to protect and accomodate Governor Wentworth.

The Letter inclosed is for Mrs Fenton, I suppose wife of Col Fenton, whom you mention to be in custody of the Rebels. I have acquainted her that you have my Leave to let the *Spinkes* bring her and her Family to Boston, which I desire you will do, if the Lady has not taken a passage in the Transport already.

I can make no Alteration in my Orders for seizing and sending to Boston all Kinds of Provisions. On the contrary there is every reason for their being executed with the greatest Exactness; The King's Troops must be supplied. The Rebels must be distressed by all means in our Power: And altho' I do not mean to withdraw your discretionary Power of allowing what Provision is really for the use of peaceable and good Subjects, yet surely the Town of Portsmouth hath very little pretension to Indulgence, except for obliging their Governor to move for his Safety to a dismantled Fort and unprovided with necessary Accomodations.

His Majesty's Servants and good Subjects should be discriminated from the Rebels and have what favor can be shewn them, but, in my opinion, they ought no longer to risque themselves in the Power of the People, without the least Security from Lawless and deliberate Acts of Cruelty and Oppression.

Such of the Stores demanded as could be got are sent round. By the next Opportunity send me the State and Condition of his Majesty's Ship under your Command.

I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 445–447, MassHS Transcript.

MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE TO COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD ¹

Sir:

Crown point June 23, 1775

You having signified to the Committee who are Appointed and Directed by the Provincial Congress of the Massachusetts Bay, to inquire into the state of the fortresses of Crown point Ticonderoga, &c. and the appendages thereof, Your Resolution to resign all Your Command of the said Fortresses and the vessels and stores thereunto belonging, for Reasons under Your hand Expressed –

This is to inform you that it is the expectation of the Provincial Congress aforesaid, that the Chief officer of the Connecticut forces at thse stations will Command the same for the Present: and the Committee accordingly Expect that you will Conform Yourself to the Directions of said Congress in that behalf, and Deliver the same to such Chief Officer of the Connecticut forces or his order for which this shall be your Authority. The Committee Expects that you will, as soon as may be, lay an account of your disbursements before the Provincial Congress agreeable to our Instructions a copy whereof is lodged with you –

By order of the Committee

Walter Spooner, *Chairman*

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 397.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, June 23, 1775

A letter from the officers of Crown Point, dated June 10, 1775 was laid before the Congress.

Information being given that Col. [Ethan] Allen and Capt'n Seth Warner who brought the letter were at the door, and had some things of importance to communicate.

Ordered, That they be called in. After they withdrew, the Congress took the letter and information into consideration.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Officer commanding in the New York department, to procure, as soon as possible, a list of the men employed in taking and garrisoning Crown Point and Ticonderoga, and keeping possession of the lakes, and also of their disbursements, in order that they may be paid.

Resolved, That their pay be the same as that of the officers and privates in the American Army; the highest of the officers not to exceed that of a captain, and that the pay commence the third day of last May, and continue until they are discharged.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention of New York, that they, consulting with General [Philip] Schuyler, employ in the army to be raised for the defence of America, those called Green Mountain Boys, under such officers as the sd Green mountain Boys shall chuse.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 104, 105.

CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE
BRITISH ADMIRALTY¹

Sir *Fowey* York River in Virginia 23d June 1775.

I beg that you will be pleased to lay before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that on the 7th instant his Excellency the Earl of Dunmore was obliged from the Rebellious state of this Colony, to come on board his Majestys ship under my command for safety: And on the 16th his Lordship made application to me to order his Majesty's schooner *Magdalen* to England with dispatches from his Lordship to the King, in consequence of which I have given Lieutenant [Henry] Colins directions, to use his utmost diligence to clean and fit out the *Magdalen* for that purpose: And hope their Lordships will approve thereof.

Herewith inclosed I transmit you a Copy of his Excellency's letter, And am,
Sir [&c.]

Geo: Montagu

1. PRO, Admiralty 1./2119, 10, 2, LC Transcript.

CERTIFICATE OF ENTRY AT CURRITUCK OF SLOOP *Elizabeth*¹

Port of *Currituck*

These are to certify all whom it may concern

That *Joshua Smith* Master or Commander of the *Sloop Elizabeth* Burthen *Fifteen* Tons, or thereabouts, Mounted with — Guns, Navigated with *Five* Men, *Plantation* Built, Registered at *Newport* Bound for *East Jersey* having on Board

Non Enumerated goods as Pr. Cosket.

Hath Entered and Cleared at His Majesty's Custom-House in *Currituck North Carolina* according to Law.

Given under our Hands and Seals of Office this *23d* Day of *June* in the *Fifteenth* Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Third, King of Great-Britain, &c Annoque Domini, 1775.

1. MNHP Collection. A printed form with manuscript entries shown here in italics.

24 June

New England Chronicle, SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1775

Watertown, June 24.

A Letter from Machias was this Day laid before the Provincial Congress, containing Advices that in Consequence of an application to that Place from Ichabod and Stephen Jones of Boston and Casco-Bay, for Lumber to supply the Navy and Army, the last mentioned Person was arrested by the Inhabitants, and put under Guard, while the other had made his Escape into the Woods: – That the Captain of a Tender sent to protect two Sloops which the Traitors aforesaid intended to have loaded, put Springs to her Cables and threatened to burn the Town unless the Prisoners were released: – That an Engagement between the People on Shore and the Crew on board the Tender took Place, and the latter was obliged to put to sea. The inhabitants immediately manned the Sloops, and arming themselves with Fire Arms, Swords, Axes and Spears, came up with the tender, & engaged her a second Time: – That an obstinate Resistance was made, and that the Tender was obliged to yield: – The Captain of the Tender was mortally wounded, and died the next Morning; five of the Crew were wounded, one Marine killed; two of our Men were killed, and five wounded.

Mr. Robert Avery of Norwich, in Connecticut, who was on board the Tender, a Prisoner, was unhappily killed.¹

1. This is a terse condensation of the letter of James Lyons of June 14, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Saturday, June 24, 1775

A Letter from George Stellman ² to Colonel [Joseph] Otis was read, and committed to Mr. Goodwin, Mr. [Timothy] Langdon, and Doctor Whiting.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

2. A letter from Machias, dated June 14, 1775, signed by Stellman as clerk of the committee.

MAJOR JOHN TUPPER, ROYAL MARINES, TO JOHN MONTAGU, LORD SANDWICH ¹

My Lord I did myself the honor to write to your Lordship the 21st Inst. acquainting you with the Success of his Majesty's Troops over, and what Share the first Battalion of Marines [had] in the Victory, tho' with the loss of many brave and worthy Officers; a Return of which I then Inclosed, since which those that were then Inserted Missing have been found to be Wounded, I have therefore made another Return which I now have the honor to send to your Lordship. Most of the Wounded are in a fair way of Recovery. I also inform'd your Lord-

ship that Major Short was then Ill, his disorder the Flux increasing since carried him off Yesterday Evening, by his Death I Find myself Commander of the Marines here, As the Corps was divided by Major [John] Pitcairn in to two Battalions, I have appointed Captn. Souter to the Command of the 2d Battalion, Captn Chudleigh who is the Senior Captain having been Wounded the 17th; tho' he had obtain'd leave the Day before the Action to return to England for his Health, he chus'd to come out and Command his Company. I have also appointed Lieutenants to the Care of Companies.

The Death of Majors Pitcairn & Short brings me to be the Second Major in the Corps. I flatter my Self that my present Services, in which I have receiv'd in a Public Manner the thanks of the Commander in Chief, will untile me to your Lordship's Favor in honouring me to the first Lieutenant Collonel's Commission that is Vacant in it.

I have the honor to be My Lord [&c.]

Jn^o Tupper

Charles Town Heighths Camp near Boston 24th June 1775

[Enclosure]

Return of the Officers, Non Commissioned Officers and private Killed and Wounded in the Marines at the Attack of the Redoubts and Intrenchments on the Heights of Charlestown 17 June 1775

Total of the 8 Battn. Compys.

	Killed	Wounded
Majors	1	
Captains	1	1
Lieutenants	1	1
Serjeants	2	1
Corporals	1	
Private	11	38

Return of the Grenadiers and Light Infantry

Captains	1	2
Lieutenants	2	2
Serjeants		1
Corporals		2
Private	10	39

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Senegal*,
WILLIAM DUDDINGSTON, COMMANDING ¹

June 1775 At Single Anchor in House Isle Road [Falmouth]
Saturday 24 A M sent a Midshipman & 6 Men to assist the *Minerva*, at 10
fired a Gun a Signal for Sailing, weighed & came to sail, at Noon
got a Ground-Fresh Breezes & rain with thick fogs at 5 P M
hove off & came to with the Bt Br at 11 Willm Casey & Joseph

Sweney Seamen & Geo. Taylor Marine went away with the Long boat from a longside – Sent the Pinnace mannd & arm'd in Pursuit of her 1/2 past 11 She return'd but could not see the boat

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/885.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1775

Providence, June 24.

Saturday last [June 17] his Majesty's ship *Rose*, Capt. [James] Wallace, and the *Swan* Sloop Capt [James] Ayscough, with a Tender, came up the River as far as Connanicut Point; but not meeting with any prey, they returned to their station at Newport; while on this cruize, five Vessels, which they had piratically taken, and left in the Harbour of Newport, were boarded by a Number of People, and carried off – The Men of War have since taken several Vessels in the River.

NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND, TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT ¹

[Extract]

Providence June 24th 1775

I received a Letter last Evening from the Committee at Plymouth informing me That Two Vessels from Genl [Thomas] Gage under Convoy of an armed Cutter ² arrived at Saco with Provisions in Order to exchange for Lumber; The Com through Necessity agreed to the Exchange, but a Misunderstanding arising the Inhabitants seized the two Vessels ³ and fired upon the Cutter, who was obliged to drop down the River. In her Way she boarded a small coasting Sloop and took the Captain of her (Toby) ⁴ for a Pilot; before they got out of the River they boarded a Schooner Capt. Avery ⁵ from Norwich whom they also took on board. In the mean Time the Inhabitants fitted out Two armed Vessels and pursued the Cutter Soon after getting clear of the Land they discovered and stood for each other. The Capt. of the Cutter threatened Toby with a Pistol at his Breast that he would send a Brace of Balls through him unless he would swear to take up his Gun in Defence of the Vessel; but he nobly refused. Poor Avery threatened in the like Manner was intimidated into a Compliance. The First Volley from our People killed Avery & the Captain ⁶ of the Cutter; upon which the Men ran into the Hold & Cabbin, and the Schooner was carried into Saco. The Number of Men she had is not mentioned. There were found on board 4 Three Pounders, 12 Swivels, 40 or 50 Muskets, as many Cutlasses and a Number of Pistols.

By a Vessel which arrived here Yesterday and left New-York on Wednesday [June 21] We have Accounts that some Transports with about 500 Troops had arrived at the Hook but found Orders there from General Gage to proceed to Boston which they immediately did without going up to the City.

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 246–248.

2. H.M. Cutter *Margaretta*.

3. The *Unity* and the *Polly*.

4. Samuel Tobey.

5. Robert Avery.

6. Midshipman James Moore.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE¹

Gentlemen:

Crown Point, June 24, 1775.

Your instructions of the 14th instant from the Provincial Congress of the Massachusetts-Bay, in regard to my conduct here, being now before me, I will answer in course.

In the first place, I observe you are appointed to examine my conduct, and in what manner I have executed my commission. I look on this instruction at this juncture as unprecedented, and a very plain intimation that the Congress are dubious of my rectitude or abilities, which is a sufficient inducement for me to decline serving them longer.

Secondly, the Congress have authorized you to judge of my spirit, capacity, and conduct, and determine whether I shall continue in commission, and if so, that I shall be under the command of a person appointed by the Colony of Connecticut. In answer to the first part, it appears to me very extraordinary that the Congress should first appoint an officer, and afterwards, when he had executed his commission, to appoint a Committee to examine if he was fit for his post. I think the examination should have been prior to the commission, and that after executing that commission they should order a younger officer of the same rank to take the command of the fortresses, vessels, &c., conquered, plainly indicates the loss of their confidence, and is a most disgraceful reflection on him and the body of troops he commands, which is a sufficient inducement to resign, not to mention the very great hardship on the private men, who, having served well near two months, are now to be mustered, and if, by sickness or hard labour, they are reduced and not fit for service, and of course do not pass muster, they are to lose their former time and service, and reduced to the distress of begging their bread until they can get home to their friends.

The last objection I have to make is, that I have so far lost the confidence of the [Provincial] Congress, that they have declined sending me money, as was promised by Captain [Jonathan] Brown, to discharge the small and unavoidable debts I have contracted for necessaries for the use of the Army, for which my own credit is at stake, and I am reduced to the necessity of leaving the place with dishonour, or waiting until I can send home and discharge those debts out of my private purse. The latter of which I am determined to do, though I have already advanced one hundred Pounds, lawful money, out of my private purse. All which reasons I believe will be thought a sufficient inducement for me to decline holding my commission longer.

I am, Gentlemen, [&c.]

Benedict Arnold

Messrs. [Walter] Spooner, [Jedediah] Foster, and [James] Sullivan, present

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1598, 1599.GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE DARLEY, DUBLIN VIA LIVERPOOL¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 24th June 1775

[Alexander] Kennedy got out of the Capes the 2nd Inst & I hope Ere this is well on his passage,² but the Villin³ I got for the Schooner put into Amboy, and

there run the Vessell to 77.0.8 York Money Expence, tho he is well recommended to me he is a Damnd Drunker & a Villen, therefore request your turning him out on his Arrivall with you, but do not pay him till you get Some papers from me to Settle his Accts the Villin to Complate the Misfortune has not protested properly as he Cut his Cable, & he only Says he parted, and he has taken one Sailor more on pay than she Ever had, which Wages he must pay him self, if he has so much, but as I said before do not Settle with him untill you hear from me Again which will be in three Days. . . . the Schooner Sailed the 10th Inst from Amboy for your place so I hope Ere this She is well on her passage – a few good Spinners and W[e]avers will answer out in her, but if you do not sell her be sure push her out as fast as possible, to Enable me to Get her from this the 10th Septr if Possible as our ports will be Stopped then, our Crop of Wheat will be very fine & one fourth Learger than any Crop we ever had on this Continent if the Weather keeps good. few Ships here now but tobacco Ships. there are two Brigs for Liverpool one of them Carries this a Ship for London, [John] Bruce Master⁴ Leakeys Ship for Cork⁵ a Brig for Some part of England & a Ship Brison for London all wheat & flour Loaded which is the whole that is here. I here that thers 3 Vessells Comeing up, but do not yet know where from.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. *The Baltimore Packet*.

3. Captain James Green.

4. Ship *Active*, which cleared June 29 for London.

5. Ship *John*, Charles Poang, master, cleared July 17, 1775, for Cork.

MASTER'S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Mercury*¹

Rem[ark]s &c Saturday 24th June 1775

A M Tackd Ship Cleard up Saw the Land The High Land of Never Sunk W B N Dist 3 Leags

P M Fresh Breezes and Cloudy W[eathe]r at 1 P M bore away at ½ past 2 Anchored with the Best B[owe]r in 5½ f[atho]m at Sandy Hook and Veard ¼ of a Cable the Light house E B S point Comfort W½S found here his Majts Ship *Kings Fisher*, Anchored here the *Argo* Transport with part of the 44 Regiment

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1866.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1775

Williamsburg, June 24.

Last Thursday [June 22] a joint address of the Hon. the Council and House of Burgesses was transmitted to the Governor, on board the *Fowey* . . . It is said his Excellency intends to take up his residence at Portsmouth, and that Lady Dunmore, and the rest of his Lordship's family, will sail tomorrow for England.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS, LONDON¹

[Extract]

[Charleston, June] 24th [1775]

P *Rabbit* Capt Fraser

. . . I have paid my one Visit to Lord William [Campbell] the little conversation we had was political, His Lordship was Sorry to find "this Country in

Such confusion.” “I hope we are not in confusion My Lord, we are acting out of the common line tis true – necessity obliges us to do so – I trust we are doing our Duty according to circumstances – we are greatly distressed & are struggling for deliverance” – “I am Sorry it is so · I do not know what to Say to it I wish the Americans would be more moderate” – “My Lord I can not justify the Americans in all their measures – Some of their measures I condemn but I consider them as improper modes of resentment – Errors will appear soon on the Side of the injured party in all great quarrels; I perceive Some in the conduct of the people in America, it cannot be otherwise, but this I will be bold to Say My Lord, that aggression does not lie on their Side & that they are heartily disposed now to a reconciliation; every Man of common Sense wishes it” – “This I can assure you Mr L[aurens] I have authority to Say, that Lord North & Lord Dartmouth too, wishes it as heartily as any Man, I have authority for Saying so” – “It would be happy for us My Lord & for the whole British Realm if their Lordships would give us Some proofs of their being in earnest” – here a Gentleman interposed & I bid good Morrow to the Governor—— . . .

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–75, SCHS.

25 June (Sunday)

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Senegal*, WILLIAM DUDDINGSTON,
COMMANDING ¹

June 1775 At Single Anchor House Isle Road [Falmouth]
Sunday 25 at 7 AM found the Longboat her sails oars masts rigging &c and
Some Arms & Ammunition taken away at 11 weighed & came to
Sail in Convoy *Minerva* Confined John Stuart for being an accom-
plice with the 3 deserters ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/885.

2. *Ibid.*, Stuart subsequently was acquitted at a court martial in Boston.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Watertown] Sabbath Day, June 25, 1775 Afternoon

A Letter from the Committee of Machias, dated June 14, 1775, was read (respecting the capture of a King's Cutter,) and committed to the Committee which was yesterday appointed to consider a Letter on the same subject to Colonel Otis.²

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1446, from Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

2. *Ibid.*, June 24, 1775. “A Letter from George Stellman to Colonel Otis was read, and committed to Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Langdon, and Doctor Whiting.” Stellman was the clerk of the Machias Committee.

“REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*” ¹

June 1775 Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour
Sunday 25 A M Stopt the Sloop *Phoenix* Wm Dennis Master from Philadelphia
with Flour, Rum & sugar ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

2. Of all the vessels stopped or seized and sent around to Boston, the *Phoenix* is the first to appear in Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript. Her cargo was taken for the army in Boston, and the vessel liberated.

"VERITAS" TO JOHN HOLT, PRINTER OF THE *New York Journal*¹

Mr. HOLT,

The following erroneous account of the reduction of Ticonderoga, was published in Mr. Thomas's Oracle of Liberty the 24th May last, and as the writer of the account which follows it, had no opportunity of seeing it, till very lately, he being up at the forts, ever since they were taken, he could not contradict it sooner. I beg therefore you'll republish it in your next Journal, together with the account that follows it, which may be depended on.

I am, your's, &c.

[Here is reprinted the account which appeared originally in the *New England Chronicle*, at Cambridge, May 18, 1775]

As the above account of the reduction of Ticonderoga, which from its complexion, I suppose originated from that very *modest* gentleman, Col. [James] Easton himself, is so replete with falshood, and is so great an imposition on the public, that I think it my duty, in order to undeceive the public, and to do justice to modest merit, to give you a candid detail of the whole matter, for the truth of which I appeal to every officer and private who were present, which is as follows:

Some gentlemen arrived in the New-Hampshire grants from Connecticut, with a design of seizing on the fortress of Ticonderoga, were there joined by a number of men, among whom were Col. [Ethan] Allen and Easton, the former, with the assistance of Captain [Seth] Warner, collected about 150 men, with whom they marched to Castletown, 20 miles from Ticonderoga, where they left Col. Easton, and proceeded 10 miles towards Shoreham, the next day Col. [Benedict] Arnold, arrived at Castleton, from Cambridge, having concerted in similar plan, and being commissioned by the Massachusetts Congress to raise a regiment, he proceeded on to the party under the command of Colonel Allen, ——— when Col. Arnold made known his commission, &c ——— it was voted by the officers present, that he should take a joint command with Col. Allen (Col. Easton not presuming to take any command) ——— When the party had marched to Shoreham, two miles on the Lake below Ticonderoga, where they waited for batteaus to cross the Lake, until midnight, and none arriving, Col. Arnold, with much difficulty, persuaded about 40 men to embark with him in a batteau accidentally taken there, and landed half a mile from the fort, and immediately sent back the batteau, which by reason of a violent storm of wind and rain did not return until break of day with a small boat, and near 50 men in both, ——— It was then proposed by some gentlemen to wait open day, and the arrival of the remainder of the men which amounted at that time to near 100; this Col. Arnold strenuously opposed, and urged to storm the fort immediately, declaring he would enter it alone, if no man had courage to follow him ——— this had the desired effect, he with Col. Allen

headed the party and proceeded directly to the fort ——— when they came within about 10 yards of the gate, the centry discovered them and made a precipitate retreat, he was pursued closely by Col. Arnold, who was the first person that entered the fort, and Col. Allen about 5 yards behind him ——— this I was an eye witness of being only a few yards distant. ——— Col. Arnold immediately order'd the men to secure the doors of the barracks, and went himself with Col. Allen to the commanding officer, Captain De la Place, and desired him to deliver up his arms, and he might expect to be treated like a gentleman, which he immediately complied with, as did the whole garrison.

I do not recollect seeing Col. Easton until 9 o'clock, and was told he was the last man that entered the fort, and that, not till the soldiers and their arms were secured, he having concealed himself in an old barrack near the redoubt, under the pretence of wiping and drying his gun, which he said had got wet in crossing the Lake. Since which I have often heard Col. Easton, in a base and cowardly manner abuse Col. Arnold behind his back, though always very complaisant before his face ——— Col. Arnold was soon made acquainted with the liberty he had taken with his character, and upon his refusing to give proper satisfaction, I had the pleasure of seeing him heartily kicked by Colonel Arnold, to the great satisfaction of a number of gentlemen present, although he (Easton) was armed with a cutlass, and a pair of loaded pistols in his pocket.

I am, your humble servant,

VERITAS.

Ticonderoga June 25, 1775

N. B. This doughty hero, Easton, has since been appointed to the command of a regiment in the Massachusetts service.

1. *New York Journal*, August 3, 1775. (Also reprinted in the *Bulletin of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum*, IV, 3.)

COMMITTEE FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS TO THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Ticonderoga; June 25, 1775

Gentlemen Notwithstanding the many Calamities the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay now struggles under, the Congress there are resolutely determined to leave nothing within their power undone, which may have a probable Tendency] to preserve the rights and property of the American Colonies. In persuance of this resolution they on the 14th Day of June appointed a Committee, whereof I have the honour to be Chairman to proceed to Tyconderoga and Crown Point, to inquire into the importance of holding those posts, and among other things respectfully to signify to you their thoughts on the Subject, — The Committee have made such inquiries as they were directed to prosecute, and have ordered me to take leave to inform you that it is their opinion, should the Fortreses on Lake Champlain Fall into the hands of our Enemies the Colony of New York with the New England Colonies must be in the utmost ins[ecur]ity, for the Enemy might Land [men] at the southern End of a part of the waters of Lake Champlain called South Bay from whence, as Fort Edward is rased to the foundation, there is nothing to check them, or prevent their Spreading Fire and devastation down to Albany, and over all the Frontier Towns-Eastward, in New York and

The Committee has Established on the Lakes, in the pay of the Massachusetts Colony four hundred Effective men with proper officers which are all that the distressed State of the Colony at present admit of: which Regiment from the peculiar embarrassment which that Colony is now Labouring under must look for present Supplies of Provisions to the Colony of New York.

1. Mass. Arch. vol. 194.

June 1775 At Single Anchor in Sandy Hook
 Sunday 25 A M Arrived here Govr [William] Tryon At 11 he Came on Bd
 Saluted with 11 Guns on His Coming on Bd & his Return
 At 1 P M Weighed & Came to Sail Empd working up for Town At
 10 Anchored off Red Hook

MASTER'S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Mercury*¹

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1866.

Extract of a Letter from Captain Vandeput of his Majs Ship *Asia* at New York dated the 25 June 1775

Since I had the Honor of writing to You on the 5th Instant, the Provincial Congress highly disapproving of the Robbery at Turtle Bay,² issued an Order that the Stores should be all return'd, which was accordingly done, except

some few things which the Storekeeper says were not brought back, on the 12th at about three in the Morning, the Storekeeper came Onboard and informed me that a large Sloop had been, since the Evening before at Turtle Bay taking off the Stores, It was then about an Hour's Flood and the *Kingsfisher* lying near us I directed Captn [James] Montagu to sail immediately and to seize the Vessel if he should be able to come up with her, unluckily our information came too late; She had left Turtle Bay at the first of the Flood, and there being but little Wind when the *Kingsfisher* got there, She could not follow her thro' Hell Gate and Escaped, this Sloop it seems was sent from Stamford in Connecticut, so the People of the Town pretend not to have been at all accessory to this Affair.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

2. See *New York Journal*, June 15, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COUNCIL OF NORTH CAROLINA ¹

At a Council held at Fort Johnston in North Carolina the 25th June 1775.

The Governor further acquainted this Board, that Captain [John A.] Collet Governor of Fort Johnston had represented to him that the said Fort was in no state of defence, that the Establishment of the Garrison consisting of 25 men only, is reduced by desertion to less than half that number, and that it is also destitute of powder, & in no condition to afford a sure protection to the valuable Artillery belonging to His Majesty in the said place in case of an attempt upon it, and desired the sentiments of the Council, on the expediency of his taking any measure for putting the Fort in a state of defence, by furnishing it with Ammunition, and raising men to strengthen the Garrison, observing at the same time that there are no funds allotted in this Country for such exigencies, nor any other resource that he knew, but to make application if the Council should advise such charge to be incurred, for money to defray the same to General [Thomas] Gage, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in America, or to the Lords Commissrs of his Majesty's Treasury.

It is the unanimous opinion of the Council, that His Excellency apply to General Gage or to the Lords of the Treasury for Money to defray the expences of repairing the Fort, and raising and maintaining a Garrison for its defence, the same being necessary for the protection and security of the Commerce of this River.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, NC, X, 38-40.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

(No 28)

Fowey in York River 25th June 1775

My Lord My last letters Numbers 26 and 27 contain Accounts of the principal occurrences in the Commotions raised on the pretence of my having removed the Gun Powder.

After the attempt made upon the Receiver General nothing material was undertaken, except by abusive publications in the News papers to raise, to the utmost pitch of extravagance, the prejudices and intemperance of the approach-

ing Assembly, which, in effect, began without any Symptoms of a disposition to disapprove of the violences committed or even to discourage their further progress . . . It happened likewise a day or two after the meeting of the Assembly that two Men were wounded, in attempting in the Night to rob the Magazine of Arms, by the discharge of a Musket loaded with large Shot, which had been placed by the keeper in a window in such a manner that any person, forcing thro' it, would fire the Gun against himself; The Crime in this Affair was entirely overlooked, but the punishment inflicted, by the hands of the Criminals on themselves irritated very much; and the Cry among the People was for Vengeance.

Among the first proceedings of the Assembly was the appointing a Committee to examine into the State of the Magazine; and the day after the two men were wounded, about Noon a Number of Persons from the Town and Country forced into it, and, in presence of Several of the Burgesses, took out the remainder of about 400 Stand of Arms, part of which had been before, at different times, Carried off by the People that found means of Secretly getting in thro' the windows; and a Considerable quantity of different Stores were likewise taken away. The above mentioned Committee then made a great merit of having, as they informed me, interposed and endeavoured, though without effect, to prevail on the People to return the Arms, but without applying for my orders or Consent, they Seized this pretence for appointing a Military Guard to Mount upon the Magazine, who have been Continued ever Since by the Same, on no better Authority; and the Command of Militia, as well as the Custody of Magazines and publick Stores of Arms and Ammunition is thus entirely wrested out of the hands of the Governor.

A feigned report was Spread that a party of Men were again Marching from His Majesty's Ship to my assistance; which occasioned an affected allarm and gave pretence for their Armed Men to assemble, who have not hesitated to declare their intention of attacking the Kings Forces, if they landed, from the Ship.

These disorders promising little Success in the great business which had been the principal object of calling the Assembly; and as their cause was ascribed to the removal of the Powder, in hopes of appeasing the minds of the Members and inducing them to proceed in their deliberations I offered, by the Message herewith inclosed, to return the Powder, as soon as I should See the Magazine made Sufficiently Secure for its preservation; but the same heated and irassible temper continued Nevertheless; My house was kept in continual allarm, and threatned every night with an assault. Surrounded therefore as I was with Armed Men, in the very place of my Residence, and in the Neighbourhood who were raised in defiance of my Authority, and pay no obedience to it, but assemble and Act as their will directs, nor are they to be controled even by the Power which they are intended to Support; and Situated so far from any place where men of War can approach, the Nearest being five Miles, I could not think it Safe to continue any longer in that City, but Judged it would be best, in all respects, for Carrying on His Majesty's Service to remove to the Ship of War which is Stationed here, where I have for the present fixed my Residence, and where most probably I shall be obliged to remain untill I receive his Majesty's Instructions . . .

The Assembly are still Sitting, and my intention is not to give them any interruption; a point arises, which is not easy to adjust, in regard of giving my assent

to the laws passed this Session. The House of Burgesses have insinuated a fear of going on board Ship, least a design be formed at Carrying them to England which is what is Spread abroad as another means of inflaming; and under the appearance of this apprehension the Speaker has two Sentinels from the Guard at his door. I have received some verbal Messages to desire me to return for the purpose of passing the Bills, or to receive the House at York, or assent by Commission, I have however Signified that I expect to be attended by the House on board His Majesty's Ship which is equally a protection for them as for me . . .

The Country in every part of it manifest no other disposition than for resisting the Authority of Government. Bodies of men are every where Set on foot, arming and dissipling with great diligence, and appearing in uniforms. His Majesty's English Subjects, indentured Servants, are Compelled to take Arms and Submit themselves to all orders they shall receive; Some of these have escaped to the Ship of War, the only protection they can meet with now the laws have no operation. Some pieces of iron ordnance left at Hampton in James River from a Man of War in the Course of last War, have been Secretly carried off and concealed, and others from places, that formerly had been batteries upon the Rivers, have been in like manner removed. These particulars Joined to the open violences of which your Lordship has had the most Authentick testimonies transmitted, the Addresses of the Burgesses in Answer to the plan of Accommodation, it was hoped they would adopt, and the actual Situation to which I am reduced have made me Judge it requisite to communicate [the] intelligence of them to your Lordship by the Safest and most Speedy Means, I have accordingly by application to Captain [George] Montagu obtained the *Magdalen* Armed Schooner Commanded by Lieutenant Henry Collins to be dispatched on this Service; This Gentleman has been employed upon the Coast of America these Six years, and a great deal in this particular Colony, and he is thoroughly qualified by his abilities as well as experience to give your Lordship much usefull information. . . .

I think it proper to Suggest to your Lordship, that it may be found Necessary to establish a regular Communication along the Coast for the purpose of Conveying intelligence from one Government to another as the Post by Land will become most probably very precarious.

In consequence of my application to General [Thomas] Gage and Admiral [Samuel] Graves, the *Otter* Sloop of War has been Sent here, and orders for Sixty Men from St Augustine and for the Company now in the Island of [New] Providence of His Majesty's 14th regiment to be brought to this Colony.

Though I can expect no great assistance from so Small a body of men against a very numerous People in Arms who have declared they will Suffer no Troops to Land, yet I am preparing Vessels to Send for them Nevertheless and I intend to keep them on board Ship, or in places on Shore difficult to be attacked and under the protection of the Men of War, always ready to reim-bark; and by being in that manner prepared to move expeditiously to any part of the Colony, as the great Rivers here admit, I shall be able, if not to quell Insurections, to keep the Country in some Awe of Government . . .

Ever since I have removed from Williamsburg every art has been tried to induce me to put myself again in their Power, in order to which the fears which I have expressed, they say were without foundation; however finding they could not accomplish their ends their patience exhausted and last night the 24th of June, a considerable body of men violently forced into the Governors house, bursting open a Window by which one part entered who then forced the principal door by which the rest entered, and they carried off all the Arms they could find to the number of between two and three hundred Stand, which had been always kept in the Hall of this house, and considerable Number of Muskets and other Arms my own Property; what other depredation has been Committed I am not yet able to learn.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/1353, 319-335, LC Transcript.

26 June

DEPOSITION OF JABEZ COBB REGARDING THE LOSS OF THE SCHOONER *Margaretta*¹

(Copy)

The information and Deposition of Jabez Cobb Master of Brigantine taken on Oath the 26th of June 1775 [at Halifax].

This Information saith that on Sunday 11th Inst June he was in Mechias Harbour on shore, and there did see about thirty Men in Arms and many more went to the Meeting House there to take up Ichabod Jones and Captain [James] Moore of the King's Armed Schooner named *Margaret*, also Mr Stilinsfleet of said Schooner, who being alarmed that they were pursued by Armed Men, jumped out of the Window and escaped; Captn Moore and Mr Stillinsfleet went Onboard their Vessel and Mr. Jones went into the Woods and escaped, on which several People seized a Sloop belonging to said Jones and strip'd the Vessel of her Sails and Rigging and took them away – the Arm'd People then went on a piece of Marsh ground near the said Armed Schooner and demanded of Captain Moore to deliver up the Vessel, Capt Moore replied he would defend his Vessel as long as he lived and would fire on the Town and beat it down unless they desisted and delivered up Jones's Vessel – that about six O'Clock the same Evening this informant did see three Boats full of Armed Men come down the River and boarded Jones's other Sloop that lay at Anchor at about four Miles distance from where he then was, they then brought this Vessel up the River about One Mile and run her onshore, – that about eight O'Clock the same Evening the King's Schooner was under way coming down the River, when about One hundred Armed Men went to attack her, and about half an hour after the Schooner being at Anchor near the Shore, said Armed Men ordered the Schooner to strike to the Sons of Liberty or else they would destroy them all, and immediately fired into the Schooner, on which the People returned the fire with Swivel Guns and small Arms which lasted about 2½ hours on both Sides, and then the Schooner cut her Cable and went down the River – And the next Morning the Armed People took two Vessels and pursued the

King's Schooner, boarded her, and killed Captain Moore and two other Men, also wounded others belonging to her, and further saith not.

Halifax SS Sworn before Us Cha. Morris, Assist Judge of Supreme Court
Thomas Bridge Jc Pe

Jabez Cobb

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

MINUTES OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Portsmouth] June 26, 1775

directed Capt [Henry] Elkins to order his Boatmen to put in to the Shoals & bring to Hampton any Cannon Shot they may find there, if the People at the Shoals will allow it to be done.

1. *New Hampshire Historical Society Collections*, VII, 9.

WILLIAM TUDOR TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

[Cambridge] 26th June 1775

Dear Sir You will doubtless before the Rect of this have heard of the bloody Engagement at Charlestown. For a particular Acct of it I must refer You to a Letter I last Week wrote our Friend [Stephen] Collins. The ministerial Troops gain'd the Hill but were victorious Losers. A few more such Victories & they are undone. I cannot think our Retreat an unfortunate one. Such is the Situation of that Hill that we could not have kept it, expos'd to the mighty fire which our Men must have recd from the Ships & Batteries that Command the whole Eminence. 800 Provincials bore the Assault of 2000 Regulars & twice repuls'd them, but the Heroes were not supported, & could only retire. Our Men were not us'd to Cannon Balls, & they came so thick from the Ships, floating Batteries &c &c that they were discouraged advancing. They have since been more us'd to them & dare encounter them.

The American Army are in great Spirits, & eager to recover their late Defeat. I wish we had more Discipline But Genl Washington we hear is coming, & we expect much from his Conduct & Experience. The Colony Forces have thrown up very extensive Lines to secure Cambridge & there are four different Entrenchments in Roxbury. The Regular Troops cannot again fight under the like Advantages they did at Charlestown. They have dearly paid for one Mile's Advancement, & before they get another I much doubt if they will have Solds enough left to maintain it . . .

The loss of Dr [Joseph] Warren is irreparable, his Death is generally and greatly lamented. But

Dulce et Decorum est pro Patria mori

1. Adams Family Papers, MassHS.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Watertown] Monday, June 26, 1775

Ordered, That the Committee appointed to consider the Petition of Mr. Edward Parry, and the Report of Colonel [Samuel] Thompson relative to his conduct at Kennebeck, be directed to consider his, the said Thompson's conduct

at Falmouth, with respect to Captain [Henry] Mowatt and Captain Coulson, and his laying Mr. Bernard under bonds.

The Committee appointed to consider the Letter from Machias reported; The Report was accepted, and is as follows, viz:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Congress be, and are hereby given to Captain Jeremiah Obrian and Captain Benjamin Foster, and the other brave men under their command, for their courage and good conduct in taking one of the Tenders belonging to our enemies, and two Sloops belonging to Ichabod Jones, and for preventing the Ministerial Troops being supplied with Lumber; and that the said Tender, Sloops, their appurtenances and cargoes, remain in the hands of the said Captains Obrian and Foster and the men under their command, for them to use and improve as they shall think most for their and the publick's advantage, until the further order of this or some future Congress, or House of Representatives. And that the Committee of Safety for the Western Parish of Pownalborough be ordered to convey the prisoners taken by the said Obrian and Foster, from Pownalborough Jail to the Committee of Safety or Correspondence for the Town of Brunswick . . . to convey them to some Committee in the County of York, and so to be conveyed from County to County till they arrive at this Congress.

Afternoon

The Comtee appointed to Consider the petition of Edward Parry (Agent to the Contractor for Masts &c) taking said petition with several other papers accompanying the same into Consideration Beg leave to report by way of resolve (viz.)

Resolved That Coll [Samuel] Thom[p]son be directed to repair to George Town and get assistance and remove said Masts and other Timber to a place of Safty The Cost not Exceeding forty pounds and as it appears said Edward Parry is not Friendly to this Country that Coll Tomson send him as soon as may be to this Congress and that the Bond Given by Dummer Sewal and Jordan Parker be void when sd masts are secured.²

The Committee appointed to consider the conduct of Colonel [Samuel] Thompson, at Falmouth, with respect to Captain [Henry] Mowatt, reported. The Report was ordered to subside; it was as follows:

The Committee appointed to consider the conduct of Colonel Thompson, at Falmouth, with respect to Captain Mowatt, &c. and his laying Mr. Barnard under bond, are of opinion that said Thompson's conduct was friendly to his Country and the cause of liberty, and that said Barnard's conduct appears to have been inimical to both. All which we humbly submit to this Congress.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1446-1448, from Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

2. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 36. The Journal entry, in *ibid.*, vol. 32, states that the report on Edward Parry was not entered in the Journal.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Preston Boston June 26, 1775

I have this Moment received a dispatch from Captain [James] Wallace of His Majesty's Ship *Rose* at Rhode Island A Copy of which I have just time enough to put on board the *Cerberus*.²

I think the Report of the Brig, Sloop, and other Vessels is likely to be true, from the Attack already made upon the *Rose's* Tender. I am [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript,
2. Captain James Wallace's letter of June 19, 1775.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, JUNE 26, 1775

Newport, June 26.

Yesterday Capt. William Dennis arrived here, in a sloop, from Philadelphia, loaded with flour, &c. Vessel and cargo taken under the *protection* of the men of war.¹

The men of war in our harbour have, since our last, seized on 6 or 7 vessels in a fair trade, loaded with rum, sugar, molasses, and provisions; all which, 'tis supposed, will be applied to the support of the enemies to American liberty.

1. William Dennis, in the sloop *Phoenix*, cleared Philadelphia about June 15 for Rhode Island. Captain James Wallace of the *Rose* sent her around to Boston, where the cargo was "sold to the Inhabitants" and the vessel "passed out." *Pennsylvania Packet*, June 12 and 19, 1775; Graves's Conduct, Prize List, II, 376, MassHS Transcript.

MASTER'S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Mercury*¹

June 1775	Rem[ark]s &c on Bd His Majts Ship <i>Mercury</i>
Monday 26th	A M Sent the Longboat to Assist the <i>Argo</i> Transport Employ'd Hogging the Ship Fresh Breezes and fair W[eathe]r P M Employd Hogging the Ships Bottom the watring the <i>Argo</i> Transport Spoke the <i>Henry & Easter</i> [<i>sic, Esther</i>] <i>Good Intent</i> <i>Royal George</i> <i>William and Mary</i> and <i>Hope</i> Transports with Troops on bd from Cork orderd them to proceed to Boston but wanting water Anchored here.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1866.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE CITY AND LIBERTIES OF PHILADELPHIA¹

In Committee, June 26, 1775

A Quantity of salt, and a box of wine glasses, having been imported in the ship *Albion*, Thomas Crippen, master, from Liverpool, it was resolved, that the said ship and cargo ought to be returned forthwith, and that the Captain have notice thereof immediately.

Ordered, That the district Committee see the above resolution complied with.

On motion, Resolved, That Mr. Joseph Whittall, one of the owners of the ship *Albion*, does not appear to have had any knowledge of, or concern in shipping the salt &c. in said vessel.

Resolved, That Mr. Henry Cour, merchant, of Liverpool, in Great Britain, half owner of the ship *Albion*, has knowingly violated the Association of the American Congress, by shipping the Salt to America; and that it is the duty of this Committee to advertise him accordingly.

Resolved, That Nicholas Ashton, Esq; of, or near Liverpool, in the county of Lancaster, in Great Britain, owner of the above mentioned salt, has wilfully violated the Association of the American Congress, by shipping the said salt to America; and that it is the duty of this Committee to advertise his conduct herein.

Resolved unanimously, That agreeable to the resolutions of the Grand American Congress, it is the duty of us, and of all our constituents, the inhabitants of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, *from henceforth not to have any commercial intercourse whatever* with the said Henry Cour and Nicholas Ashton; And it is recommended that an inviolable regard be paid to this resolution.

Extract from the Minutes

Jonathan B. Smith, Secretary

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, July 3, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety [Charleston] Monday, June 26, 1775

Col. [William] Moultrie & Lt Col. [Isaac] Huger having applied to the Council for Advice in Regard to the Inlistments of Men, who are said to have deserted from the Sea Service; Capt. [John] Tollemache ² having intimated, that if he lost any he must distress the Trade.

They were advised to give an Answer, if applied to, to this Effect.

We did not know that we had inlisted any of your Men, but if any of them have inlisted, we dare not Give them up.

1. Laurens Collection, SCHS.

2. Captain of His Majesty's Sloop *Scorpion*.

27 June

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Cerberus*, JAMES CHADS, COMMANDING ¹

June 1775 Cape Cod S 70 W 35 Leagues

Tuesday 27 at 4 A M Weighed [in Nantasket Road] & Came to Sail in Co wt the Brig for Glasgow at 6 sett Studing sls at 12 the Brig in Company at 3 passd by 2 sls Standg to Wesd at 4 P M Cape Cod S b W 4 Lgs at 6 spoke a Schooner from Granada to Casket [sic! [Casco] Bay at 8 In Reef Topsls Left Brig a Stern out of sight

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN TYRINGHAM HOWE, H.M.S. *Glasgow* ¹

Whereas I have Intelligence that 18 Carriage Guns and 200 Men, a Sloop of 14 Guns, and four or five other Vessels are fitted out at Providence to attack the King's Ships, and that from New London and Dartmouth Vessels are also fitted out with the same Design, and whereas fifteen Transports with Troops are daily expected to arrive from England, who not expecting Rebels or Pirates on the Coast, may be unprepared and thereby fall into their hands; You are therefore hereby required and directed forthwith to proceed to Sea in his Majesty's Ships under your Command and cruize from the Back of Nantucket Shoals to

the West End of Long Island and look for the said Transports, And when by speaking to the *Nautilus* who is cruising off the Hook, or by any other certain Intelligence you can learn that they are all arrived, you are to repair to Rhode Island and put yourself under the Command of Captain [James] Wallace of his Majesty's Ship *Rose*, and follow his Orders for your further proceedings. In case of your meeting with any of the Transports you are to order them to repair immediately to Boston, apprize them of their danger from the Rebels and conveying them fairly into the Bay of Boston return in quest of the Remainder until the whole are arrived, when you are to proceed as above directed. You are also to seize and send to Boston all Vessels you may meet with having provision of any kind, Melasses or Salt on board.

Should you by any Accident neither meet the *Nautilus* nor any of the Transports, you are not to cruise longer than three Weeks, from the time you get round the Shoals, but at the expiration of that time proceed to Rhode Island.

Given under my hand on board his Majesty's Ship *Preston* at Boston the 27 June 1775

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 126, 127, MassHS Transcript.

NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND, TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Providence June 27, 1775

I gave you a hint in my Letter of yesterday of our fitting out two armed Vessels for the protection of our trade, it looks very probable to me that if there were a few Vessels properly armed and mannd along the Coast in different parts it would be a great means of proteckting our own trade and allso of picking up many of the provision Vessels that they the Men of War take this way and send round to Boston many of those Vessels are sent Round with but five or six hands in each and With nothing more than a Small arm a piece to defend them and further as the Enemy think we have no force that dare put out of our harbors some of their Store Ships come Without Convoys and there is a possability that we might pick up one of them if we had a Vessel or two to Cruise in their way these things are dropped Gentlemen for yr Consideration

from Yr most [&c.]

Nich^s Cooke

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 8.

MASTER'S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Mercury* ¹

June 1775

Rem[ark]s &c on bd His Mjts. Ship *Mercury*

Tuesdy. 27th A M Send the Longboat to Assist watering the Transports
Emp[loye]d Hogging the Ships Bottom up Top Gallt. Yards
Anchored here His Mjts. Sloop *Nautilus* from Boston
Fresh Breezes and Cloudy W[eathe]r
P M Reced on bd 7 Marines from His Majts. Sloop *Nautilus* ²
Anchord here the *Pallas* transport from New York having on bd

part of the Royal Irish bound to Boston Anchored here the
Jean Transport from Cork with part of the 44 Regiment got
 Down Top Gallt Yards

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1866.

2. In addition to the seven marines, the *Nautilus* brought orders to Captain John Macartney of the *Mercury* to proceed to Virginia and relieve the *Fowey* stationed there. See Graves to Stephens, July 16, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, June 27, 1775

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That Govr [Philip] Skene be sent under a guard to Weathersfield, or Middletown, in the County of Hartford, in Connecticut, there to be confined on his parole, not to go out of the bounds prescribed to him by Govr [Jonathan] Trumbull.

Ordered, That the Delegates for Pennsylvia take measures to have the above resolve carried into execution.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the letter from Albany,² and after some debate the Congress came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That Major General P[hilip] Schuyler be directed to repair as soon as conveniently he can to the posts of Ticonderoga and Crown point, to examine into the state thereof, and of the troops now stationed there, and how they are supplied with provisions and necessary stores – into the state also of the sloop and other navigation on the lakes – also to obtain the best intelligence he can of the disposition of the Canadians and Indians of Canada. That he confer with Col. [Benjamin] Hinman and Col. [Benedict] Arnold, on the subject of Col: Arnold's letter to this Congress, and report as soon as possible, the state of the whole as near as it can be ascertained, to this Congress. And that he give orders for the necessary preparation of boats and stores for securing to the United Colonies the command of those waters adjacent to Crown point and Ticonderoga.

Resolved, That as Governor [Guy] Carl[e]ton is making preparations to invade these colonies and is instigating the Indian Nations to take up the Hatchet against them, Major Genl Schuyler do exert his utmost power to destroy or take all vessels, boats or floating batteries, preparing by sd Govr or by his order, on or near the waters of the lakes.

Resolved, That if General Schuyler finds it practicable, and that it will not be disagreeable to the Canadians, he do immediately take possession of St Johns, Montreal, and any other parts of the country, and pursue any other measures in Canada, which may have a tendency to promote the peace and security of these Colonies.

Resolved, that if General Schuyler shall have occasion for a larger quantity of ready money and ammunition for carrying on such an expedition, than he can in convenient time procure from the provincial Congress of the Colony of New York, that he do in such case apply to the Governor of Connecticut for such supplies as may be necessary, and can be furnished by that Colony; and

that Governor Trumbull be desired to furnish such supplies, and that this Congress will make provision for reimbursing the same.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 108–110.

2. *Ibid.*, June 26, 1775, reads: "A letter^s from the Committee of Albany recd by express was laid before the Congress and read."

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

27th of June 1775

P.S. [to letter of June 25]

A constant guard is kept in Williamsburg relieved every day from the adjacent Counties, and that place is become a Garrison, the pretence of which is the Security of the Person of their Speaker who because he has been Chairman of the [Continental] Congress, it is reported, in order to inflame, that Government is anxious to Seize him ² Guards likewise Continually mount at the Town of York opposite to which the Men of War lie, and thro'out the whole Country the greatest attention is paid to these Military preparations and an universal appearance of War is put on.

I just now learn that the People have laid hold of the keeper of the Magazine, who had been appointed by me, and that they have thrown him into Prison

I am &c.

Dunmore

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/1353, 344 LC Transcript.

2. Peyton Randolph was elected president of the Continental Congress, May 10, 1775, and vacated the chair May 23, to attend the session of the Virginia Assembly which Dunmore had called.

ORIGINAL LETTER OF GOVERNOR JAMES WRIGHT TO ADMIRAL [SAMUEL] GRAVES ¹

Sir,

Savannah in Georgia, the 27th of June 1775.

Some time ago I had the honour to receive a letter from the Earl of Dartmouth, dated the 1st of February last, wherein he wrote me that an order was gone from the Admiralty to you, Sir, to send me one of your cruisers, but none is yet arrived – nor have I heard any thing of it since. And I am now to acquaint you, that four or five boats, from the South-Carolina side, of our inlet, have been here for ten or twelve days past, full of armed men – it is said near one hundred. We expect a vessel from London every day, with a considerable quantity of gun-powder on board and report says, that these people mean to take it out, and carry it away; and it is not in my power to prevent it. And thus you see, Sir, that our port may, and in short is, blocked up by our neighbours, and that they have it in their power to plunder any thing, that arrives here, and do just what they please. I hope, therefore, that you will be kind enough to give such immediate assistance, as may be in your power, to prevent such insults, and attempts, as I have mentioned.

Pardon me, Sir, for saying that an armed schooner will be of little use; or any thing less, than a sloop of war of some force, and which, from Lord Dartmouth's letter, I have been long expecting, and impatiently looking out for.

I doubt not but the situation we are in will strike you in such a light, that you will see the propriety of immediate assistance.

Another matter seems to be also necessary for his Majesty's service; viz. frequent accounts from yourself, and General Gage, with respect to the state of affairs, your way – as I find it has the greatest influence on the conduct and proceedings of the people here, And I have no way by which this can be done, unless you are pleased to send it by some of his Majesty's vessels under your command.

I have the honour to be, with perfect esteem, Sir, your most ob. and most humble serv[ant].

James Wright

[Endorsement by John Drayton] The above Letter was withdrawn from the envelope, and the following was substituted in its place by the Secret Committee [of Charleston, South Carolina].

1. Drayton, *American Revolution*, I, 348, 349.

COPY OF THE LETTER FROM GOVERNOR JAMES WRIGHT TO ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES AS SUBSTITUTED BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Sir,

Savannah in Georgia, the 27th June, 1775.

Some time ago I had the honour to receive a letter from the Earl of Dartmouth, dated the 1st February last, wherein he wrote to me, that an order was gone from the Admiralty to you, Sir, to send me one of your cruisers. It gives me the highest pleasure to acquaint you, that I now have not any occasion for any vessel of war, and I am clearly of opinion that his Majesty's service will be better promoted by the absence than the presence of vessels of war in this port. On this subject of military forces, being at present sent to this part of the Continent, I have written fully to the General, and I beg leave to refer you, Sir, to that letter, which is of equal date with this.

As I am persuaded it will be for the benefit of the service, that the Southern Governors should have early information of important transactions in your part of the Continent, I doubt not but that if you, Sir, shall be of the same opinion, you will send such by some advice boat. And if such vessel proceeds to Charlestown, my packet may there be sent on shore, and it will reach me, by a secure land conveyance by Express from the Post-Office.

Perhaps Captain [John] Tollemache may give you, Sir, some little alarm about two or three canoes from South-Carolina in this river; waiting, as report says, to take some gun powder from on board a vessel daily expected to arrive here. But, I acquaint you, Sir, that they are sent upon a smuggling party of goods into their own Colony, by private directions of their Committee. They mean to procure some gun-powder, and I shall not be displeased if under the appearance of some violence they purchase such an article—as, it is intended to make good the contract made by Mr. Stuart and myself, with the Indians, both Creeks and Cherokees; the latter of whom will be more convenient for the Carolinians, than the people of Georgia to supply. I have the honour to be, with perfect esteem, Sir, your most humb and most obt servt.

James Wright

[Endorsed by John Drayton] A facsimile signature of James Wright, was affixed to this letter, by the Secret Committee. The two original letters of Sir James Wright, [one to Gage] as well as the copies of the substitute letters, are in the possession of writer of these Memoirs.

1. Drayton, *American Revolution*, I, 349, 350.

SIR JAMES WRIGHT, GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA, TO LORD WILLIAM CAMPBELL,
GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA ¹

Lord –

Sav. in Georg. the 27. June, 1775

Late last night I had the honor to receive yr Ldship's Ltr of the 23 Inst & very sincerely congratulate yr Lordship's safe arrival at C.T. where I wish you great Satisfactn & Felicity At the same [time in the] disord'd State of pub. Affrs & without any *protection* or *support* I am much afraid it is not to be expected, and as things strike me, I see no probability of any sober quietude unless the prudence & modern of the Contintl Congress should lay a foundation for it – and I find this province is at last likely to be drawn in –

Certainly my Ld a speedy communication & Intelligence from the Genl & Adml may be of great use, & tend much to promote his Maj's Service. And I see no kind of Difficulty in this as there are many armed Schooners which are really of little use, but as advice boats, and I now enclose yr Ldship Letters to those Gentlemen on that Subject.

With respect to the other matters it will be very agreeable to me to assist in keeping up a safe & frequent intercourse, but I have no Fund, not one Shilling of pub. money at my command, but even if it were otherwise, the doubt with me is, *what mode of safety* can be fallen upon, for if the common post is *not safe*, & there is or should be a determination to seize on the Lrs, I fear a special messenger will not be *much safer* than the common post, for he will soon be known, & then as liable to be robbed as the other. And I cannot say but I am apprehensive for my Lrs. of April & May which I presume will come together by the May packet & may be daily expected.

If yr Ldship thinks of any other safe method you will be pleased to let me know, & how often to go, & what the expense may be? And I beg leave to assure your Ld Ship that it will give me the greatest Satisfaction to cultivate a Correspondence.

I have the honor to be with perfect Esteem my Lord

Your Lordships [&c.]

J. Wright

10 o'clock a.m.

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, XXVII, 115, 116.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *Saint John*, LIEUT. WILLIAM GRANT,
COMMANDING ¹

June 1775

Anchored in St Augustine Harbor

Tuesday 27 At 4 A M fired a gun and Made a Signal for a pilot having Received Despatches from Governor [Patrick] Tonyn With his letter

On His Majestys Service desiring I would proceed with His Majestys Schooner under my Command to Georgia with all expedition, and deliver the Aforesaid despatches to Sir James Wright Governor of Georgia – At 10 Weighed and came to sail – and Anchord below the banks handy for going over the Barr next Morning

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

28 June

INVENTORY OF ORDNANCE AND STORES BROUGHT FROM FORT WILLIAM AND MARY ¹

Inventory of Ordnance and Sundry Military Stores Ship't from Fort William & Mary Onboard the *Resolution* Transport, for Boston, Vizt.

Ordnance	32	Pounders,	Eighteen	No
	24	Do	Twenty	three
	18	Do	Four	
	9	Do	Eight	
	6	Do	Four	

Round Shot different Sizes, quantity, four Thousand One hundred and eighty –
Weight about

Tons	C.	Qrs.	lbs.
50.	0.	0.	0.

Thirty one Boxes of Grape Shot.

Twenty five Ladles of different Sizes.

Twelve Warmers, Ten Crows, About one Ton old Carriage Iron, Sixteen Carriages.

Two hundred and thirty six Iron Wheels on Trucks.

Four tackle Blocks. Iron

John Cochrane

Fort William and Mary June 28th 1775. (A Copy)

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

JOHN THAXTER TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Braintree June 28th. 1775

Dear Sir One of the many brave and gallant Actions that have graced our Arms, I take the Liberty of writing you an Account of. The most important Transactions, since your Absence, you are undoubtedly already informed of; but as this, I am about to relate, is just come to hand, I embrace the Opportunity of sending you an Account of it by the Express.

Not long before the Date of this, General Gage dispatched two Sloops with Provision to Machias, under the Convoy of a Tender – this Provision was to be exchanged for Lumber & other Articles. Stephen and Ichabod Jones the Contractors had made Application to the Town to supply the Army and Navy with Lumber – one of the Traitors was taken Prisoner, the other fled to the [. . . in] Imitation of the Colonel perhaps. The Contractors being made Prisoners, the

Captain of the Tender threatned instant Demolition to the Town, if there was not an immediate Resignation of them and Springs were put to the Cables for that End. The Inhabitants, neither intimidated by the Abuses they had previously recieved from the Sloops Crews, nor the brutum Fulmen of the Captain, retained the Prisoners – upon which a few Martial Civilities passed between both Parties – but finding our Fire too hot, they put to Sea. The Machias People, determin'd on a Capture of the Tender, boarded the Sloops, armed them with Implements of War and Husbandry, and sailed after her, and soon came up with her, when an Engagement ensued, in which our Men, as usual, proved victorious. The Tender had twelve Swivels it is said. The Captain and three Men, besides many wounded, fell on their Part, also Robert Avery of Norwich a Prisoner was unfortunately killed; two or three, with several wounded, fell on our Part. What Men remained on board the Tender were taken Prisoners. This was the tragical End of their intended Exchange.

A few Days ago arrived at Nantucket, after seven Weeks Passage, a Vessel from England. One of the Passengers, Viz. Mr William Palfray brought Letters from some of our Enemies in England for our Refugees – he carried them to Watertown and they were read in Congress. There was one from that infamous Parricide H[utchinson], to his Son, wherein he says, “he hopes the Contest will soon be settled, that he may come and spend the Remainder of his Days at Milton.” This Letter is secret and confidential, it is to be supposed.

Mr. Blowers and Bliss write to Leonard, Taylor, the Amorys and others. They lash us with Infatuation, Delusion and Cowardice. They prophecy no Resistance at all [. . .] an ineffectual one, as will be crushed with the greatest Facility. Their P[ro]phesy will not? become History. In the same Vessel came one Camel [Campbell?] an Ensign of [. . . regi]ment – who, upon a Narrative of the Battles, utterly refused to go to Boston – he was told, he might be exchanged for one of our Men a Prisoner in Town. No he would not – he says he did not come to fight. At present he is at Watertown, complimented with a guard. Mr. Duncan Ingraham another Passenger says, they are very peacable in England now; but gives as his Opinion, when the News of the Lexington Battle reaches there, it will throw the Nation into the greatest Convulsions imaginable.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 233, 234.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM C. BURNABY, H.M.S.
Merlin AT MARBLEHEAD ¹

Sir,

Preston Boston 28 June 1775

I have received your Letters June 22, 23 & 24. The Vessels with Wood, Salt and Melasses are arrived.² The Tender carries your People round again. I send you also my Order for Lecky to act as Lieutt, and some Proclamations to distribute. Lieutenant [George] Dawson is not directed to quit Salem Station, but, leaving either the *Hope* or Tender there, to run now and then in the other Schooner along the Coast as far as Piscataqua; but, as I find that Manchester, Salem, and Cape Ann Harbours are the Places from whence the Rebels can

receive Supplies with most facility, I have directed him to make those the chief Object of his attention for some time to come.

I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 447, MassHS Transcript.

2. Four vessels had been seized by the *Merlin*, *Hope*, and *Lively* and sent in as above related, namely: the sloop *Race Horse*, from Kennebec, with wood and bark, the brig *Betsey* and schooner *Two Brothers*, from Nova Scotia, with salt, and the schooner *Molly*, with molasses. Graves's Conduct, II, Prize List, 376, 377, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF RHODE ISLAND ¹

Providence, the 28th day of June 1775

It is voted and resolved, that the gunner and all the soldiers at Fort George, be immediately discharged.

That Mr. Tomas Freebody have the care of the buildings on Goat Island, and let them out; that he haul up the fort-boat, take particular care of her, and preserve her for the use of the colony; that he procure the cannon to be brought over from the fort to Newport; and that he advertise the guns which were stolen from the fort.

It is voted and resolved, that Capt. John Grimes be, and he is hereby, appointed commander of the small sloop, chartered by the colony, in the room of Capt. Christopher Whipple, who refused.

That all other vacancies in either of the sloops, chartered by the colony, be filled up by the committee of safety; and that the officers be commissioned by the secretary of this colony.

1. Bartlett, ed., *Records of Rhode Island*, VII, 357, 361, 362.

BRIGADIER GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE TO NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

[Extract]

Rhode Island Camp Jamaica Plains June 28 1775

A Ship Arrivd last night with Troops – it has been observed to Day that A Ship or two are missing out of the Harbour, it is Suspected that they are coming to Rhode Island – But I dont apprehend any Attention ought to be paid to the Suggestion – I heard a letter read Dated the Sixth of May from Holland, in which it is Said the Dutch are affronted with the English and have ordered the English Frigates away from the Texel – The French refuses to prohibit the exportation of Ammunition to America in any other way than that of laying a Small fine – The Spannish Monarch refuses to lay any restraint upon the Merchants – If these accounts are true which no doubt they are we may expect Soon to have a great plenty of Powder. – May God prosper so desirable event.

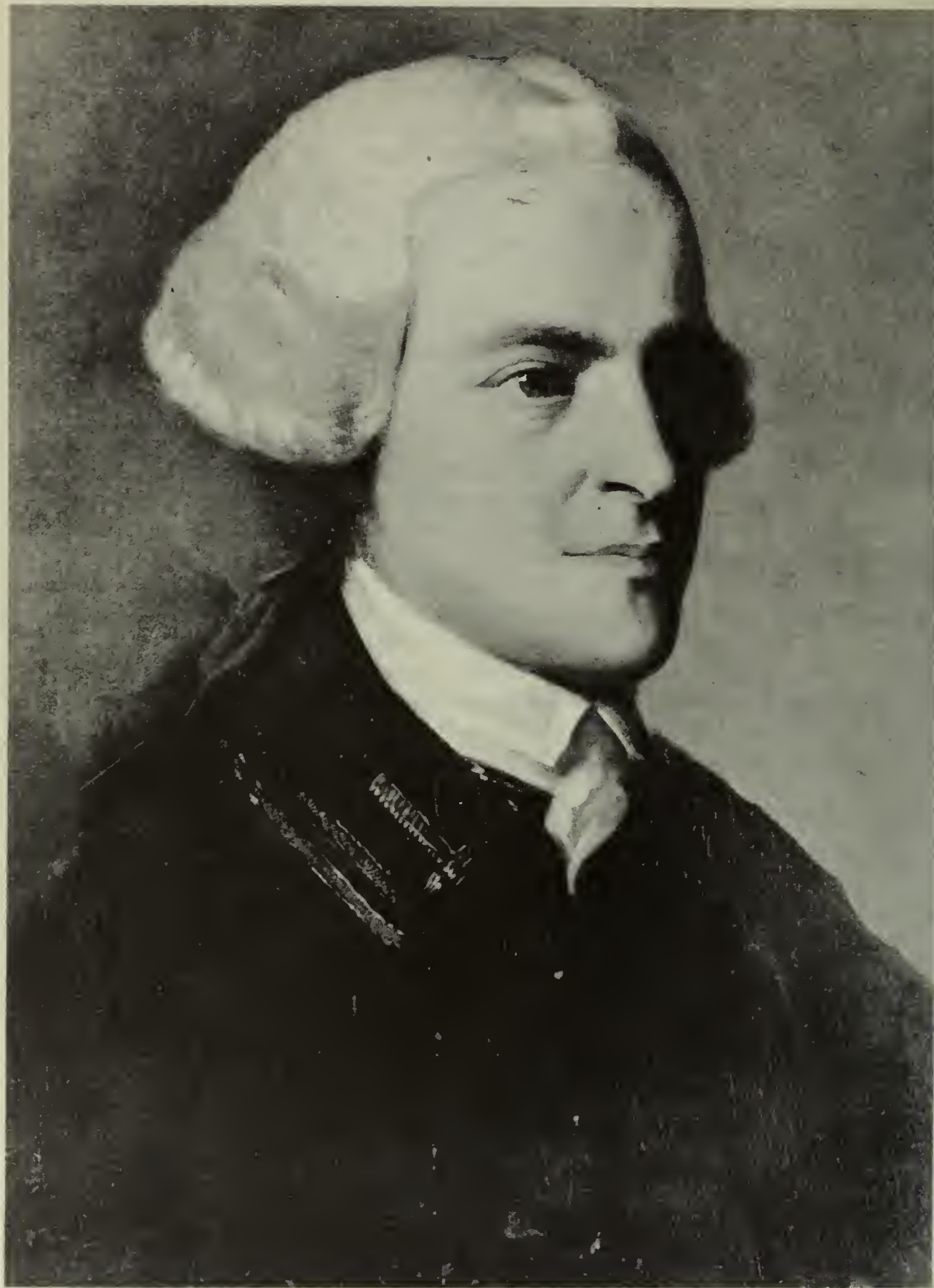
1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 251.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO COLONEL BENJAMIN HINMAN AT
TICONDEROGA ¹

Sir,

New York June 28th 1775.

The Honble Continental Congress having been pleased to appoint me to a Major General's Command in the American Army, and having directed to take



John Hancock. By Samuel F. B. Morse, 1816, after the 1765 original by John S. Copley.

Charge of that Part of it, which is, or may be employed in the Province of New York, I do myself the Pleasure to advise you thereof

You will please with all Expedition to make me a Return of the Troops under your Command, and their Condition, specifying from which Colony they are, what Number of them are at Crown Point, what at Ticonderoga, the Landing on Lake George, and the South end of said Lake, or at any other Post you may have occupied. And that the Service may not suffer for Want of any Thing necessary with you, I beg of you to make me a very minute Return of the Provisions, Cannon, Ammunition, Artillery Stores, intrenching and Pioneer's Tools, at every of the above mentioned Places, also of the Number of Vessels on Lake George, what Kind they are, and their Burden, the same of those on Lake Champlain.

As it is of the highest Importance that good Intelligence of Genl [Guy] Carleton's Motions should be had, let me entreat you to spare no Pains to procure the best Accounts of what he is about, of the Disposition of the Canadians and Savages towards Us, what Posts are occupied agt Us, If fortified and how, the Number of Men with which they are garrisoned, whether of Canadians or regular Troops; and from Time to Time transmit me any Intelligence you may procure. Take every opportunity of giving the Canadians & Indians the strongest Assurances of our friendly Sentiments towards them; and if they should unfortunately entertained any that are unfavourable from Mr [Ethan] Allen's Excursion into their Country, try to eradicate them by Assurances that what he did, was without any Orders; and altho I am convinced he meant to serve the Cause of America by what he did, yet it may be well if the Canadians have taken Umbrage at it, to inform them that his Conduct in that Instance was disapproved of.

In military Contests it behoves every Commander to be extremely diligent, careful, & circumspect, to watch every Movement of his Opponents. This I have Confidence you will not by any Means neglect, any more than that of putting yourself in the best Posture of Defence; and as it is necessary to prepare agt possible Accidents, I would have you take Measures to secure a Retreat to the South End of Lake George, or South Bay, if at any Time you should be forced to so disagreeable Step. I am Sir [&c.]

Ph. Schuyler

1. President's Letter Book, III, LC.

JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, TO MAJOR
GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER ¹

Sir

Philadelphia June 28th 1775

By direction of this Congress I transmit you several resolutions which passed Yesterday – the Importance of which you will readily see and the necessity of your immediate Attention to the execution of them – The Alteration of the Sentiments of the Congress since your departure, relative to making an impression into Canada was occasioned by a letter they received from the Committee of Albany, a copy of which you have enclosed –

I have by order of Congress wrote to Governor [Jonathan] Trumbull upon the subject of Money & Ammunition, the Congress have directed you to make

Application to him for which letter is forwarded by Express & you will please to give him as early notice as possible of what supplies of both you may have occasion for.

I have not time to add but to desire you will acknowledge the receipt of the resolutions — I am Sir [&c.]

John Hancock

[P.S.] You will observe as much secrecy as the Nature of the Service will admit

1. Hancock Letter Book, 1775–76, Force Transcript, LC.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU,
COMMANDING ¹

June 1775 Cape Henry S E 3 or 4 leags
Wednesday 28. At 6 A M weighed and came to sail in Company with his Majesty's schooner the *Magdalen*, And opened a Barrele of Pork contents 112 pieces Moderate and Clear at ½ past Noon his Majesty's schooner *Magdalen* went for England at ½ past came to Anchor in Lynn Haven Bay with the best Bower in 7 fathom and veerd to ⅓ of a Cable

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTYS SCHOONER *Magdalen*, HENRY COLINS,
COMMANDING ¹

June 1775 Cape Henry E S E 2 Leags
Wednesday 28th A M Fresh Breezes at 6 came to Sail in Co the *Fowey* at 8 the Egg Islands So at Noon parted Co with the *Fowey* Light Breezes and fair Weatr set small Sails ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/3894.

2. The *Magdalen* was carrying Governor Dunmore's wife and children to England.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

June 1775 Moored in York River [Virginia]
Wednesday 28 at 5 A M they sailed hence ² Sent the Master, a Midshipman and six Men on board the *Betsey* Sloop.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

2. His Majesty's Ship *Fowey* and Schooner *Magdalen*.

THOMAS JONES TO JOSEPH HEWES, A NORTH CAROLINA DELEGATE IN THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

Govr [Josiah] Martin went in incog a few weeks agoe to Fort Johnston and there he still remains The writ of Election mention the meeting of the Assembly to be on the 12th July no doubt to have laid before them [Frederick Lord] North's olive Branch you know the Spirit of this province so well as to believe it will be treated with every mark of Contempt. I am asham'd of my Countrymen in England to think they suffer such a villain to exist How-

ever I have this consolation that we have many very able & noble Characters in both Houses of parliament who are true friends to the Constitution as also many Excellent writers who are forever busy in exposing the present Tory Ministers and their infamous designs by Millen's Brig in Eight Weeks from London we are informed that Nine Tenths of the people at home are in our favour and nothing but American affairs are talk'd of this vessell left Deal the first day of May and arrived here a few days past The common Cry is they are ruined unless they have the American Trade upon the same footing it was at the Close of the last War we have London papers down to the 27th April but what think you when the agreeable News reaches St James's of the Kings Troops being continually drubb'd, the loss of Crown point, & the union which now universally prevails throughout the confederated Provinces the Quakers taking up arms – and the loss of the *Scarborough* and a sloop of war – depend upon it North and the advisers behind the Curtain must wish London alone will be too hot for them – I hope before the return of Mr Bondfield the Congress will have advises from England relative to the first attack made by the Kings Troops on the Provincials . . . my respectfull Compliments to My very worthy friend Mr [William] Hooper and tell him the Committee of this Town & County sent on his packet sent by Mrs Underhill and directed to his Brother by Express immediately after it came here as also Mr [Richard] Caswell's to whom also please to make my Compliments. I have nothing more to add but that I am with true Esteem [&c.]

[Edenton] 28th June 1775.

Tho: Jones.

1. Hayes Mss., NCDAH.

29 June

JOSIAH BARTLETT TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

Kingstown, June 29th, 1775

We are anxious to know the Result of your Deliberations in order to know how to conduct the affairs of the Colony, which at this time are in great confusion, the people not suffering any affairs to proceed in the usual form and to others being adopted. The Ships of War already stop and seize all vessels laden with Provisions, Salt, or Molasses, which very much distress the Eastern Parts. They have destroyed Fort Wm and Mary, and have this week taken the Guns and carried them to Boston, except 8, that were brought from Jerry's Point some time ago. The General Court met the 4th of May – did no business – were adjourned to the 12th Instant when the Governor ² laid before us Lord North's famous plan of accomodation, on which nothing was or will be acted, without Direction from the American Congress. The Assembly now is adjourned to the 11th of July.

Previous to the adjournment Col. John Fenton (who you may remember was chosen as a member for Plymouth, by the King's writ, without the consent of the Assembly), made his appearance in the House, tho' he had for some-time before kept on Board the Man of War in the Harbour. The House took into consideration his election, and vacated his Seat. The people of the

town, greatly exasperated at his conduct, obliged him to Surrender, tho' he had taken shelter in the Governor's house; and he has since been kept under Guard. The Governor and his Lady went off that evening to Capt. [John] Cochran's, at the fort under the Protection of the Man-of-War . . . We are greatly concerned about ammunition, as we have scarce any except what was taken out of the fort last winter, some of which we were forced to send to our Western frontiers, and some to the Army before Boston. We hope some plan is laid for bringing it in to the Southern Colonies, for New England is so guarded that there is but little hope of getting it in here.

Josiah Bartlett

1. *Historical Magazine*, October 1860, 298.

2. Governor John Wentworth.

JOHN WENTWORTH, GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy) Fort William and Mary in New Hampshire, June 29th 1775

Sir I have had the Honour to receive your Letter of the 23d instant, and am much obliged to You for your kind Expressions of Concern at my Situation, the People of New Hampshire are unhappily adopting the Measures recommended by the General Congress, and it is to be feared it will be some time before they come to be right again I do not indeed expect it until the Public Tranquility be restored in the Massachusetts Government.

His Majesty's Sloop *Falcon* with the *Resolution* Transport are arrived, which Captain [Andrew] Barkley acquainted me in a Letter of the 27th were ordered here by You, to carry the Guns and Military Stores belonging to this Fort, to Boston, for Security in case the King's Ships should have Occasion to move from this Place, and they have been put Onboard the Transport for that purpose. Captain Barkley in A Letter he wrote to me the 9th instant proposed the Shipping of those Guns and Stores Onboard a Ship then in this Harbour, to which I gave him for Answer, that I did not at that juncture think it advisable to dismantle the Fort entirely, in the manner he proposed.

Many Reasons indeed weighed with me against such a Step. His Majesty's Commission does not empower me to dismantle a Fort without the Advice of the Council, and in the naked State this place is in, without any Protection, it could not be expected the Council would advise to dismantle the Fort, as it must inevitably expose their Lives and Properties to the utmost danger; – It is moreover notorious that the minds of the unhappy deluded Country People, are more unsettled by the Propagation of false Rumors among them, than by any other means, and a movement of this nature cannot fail of being turned to that use by those Leaders who make it their Study and Aim to mislead the Multitude. I therefore applied for your affording me more Aid, and I cannot help expressing my Concern, that the Guns and Stores could not be properly secured in the Fort, so that there might be no Occasion to remove them, as I am persuaded it would be more conducive to His Majesty's Interest that they should be kept in safety here, unless there should be a necessity for them elsewhere.

However, as it is not convenient to station another Ship here, and in such an Exigency, as the Removal of the *Scarborough*, it appears very expedient that those

Guns and Stores should be out of the Way as the Country People would otherwise take Possession of them.

An Inventory has been taken of every Particular and is herewith inclosed (a Duplicate whereof has also been delivered to Captain Barkley)² which I must beg leave to rely on being restored to the Fort, unless his Majesty shall be pleased to Command any other disposition of them.

Sign'd J. Wentworth.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

2. For the inventory, see June 28, 1775.

GOVERNOR JOHN WENTWORTH TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE¹

[Extract]

Fort William and Mary, June 29, 1775

Admiral [Samuel] Graves has sent a transport under convoy of the *Falcon* sloop of war, and entirely dismantled this ungarrisoned Castle of all the ordinance, stores, &c.

Besides the inconvenience of being crowded into this miserable house, confined for room and neither wind or water tight, I am inevitably obliged to incur some extra expence for my safety and existence even here. Being of necessity compelled to make some small repairs to render it habitable, and to employ six men as watches to prevent my being surprised and made prisoner. These, with my three servants and Mr. Benning Wentworth, and Captain [John] Cochran are divided into three guards of four hours each; by which means I have some security of getting on board the *Scarborough*. The six men are at the expence of Twelve dollars per month each, including their dieting, allowance of Rum, &c.; under which expence no trusty man can possibly be had for so unpopular a service in this time of general opposition to Government. The repairs will not exceed fifty guineas.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 381, 382.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

[Preston, Boston] 29 [June 1775]

By the *Charlotte* advice boat the Admiral sent the following Letter to Captain [Francis] Parry of his Majesty's Sloop *Cruizer* at North Carolina, and wrote nearly to the same purport to the Captains of the *Nautilus* in the Delaware, *Tamer* at So Carolina, *Magdalen* Schooner and *Mercury* at Virginia, and the *St John* at the Bahamas.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 127, 128, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY, H.M.S. *Cruizer* IN NORTH CAROLINA WATERS¹

Sir,

Preston Boston 29 June 1775

Herewith you will receive two Acts of Parliament restraining American commerce, with the Kings Order in Council prohibiting the importation of Arms and Ammunition into America; Copies of a Proclamation by the Governor of this Province publishing and ordering the use of the Law Martial, with some Ac-

counts of an Action between the Kings Forces and the Rebels on the 17th instant. It is I believe unnecessary after this to mention that the whole Country is in Rebellion, and that those of this Province are using their utmost endeavours to destroy or remove the Kings forces in Boston. I send Mr Logie to bring me all the Intelligence you can procure of the proceedings in the Colony of North Carolina, and also every information of your own Situation, the Condition of his Majesty's Sloop under your Command with respect to Men, Stores and provisions and any other particulars necessary for my knowledge. I desire you will give him all possible Dispatch in order that he may return to me again with the utmost Expedition. I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 128, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN EDWARD MEDOWS, R.N.¹

Sir,

Preston Boston 29 June 1775

I have before me your Letter of the 19th instant. It is really out of my Power to enlarge the *Tartars* Complement, and equally so at present to send you another Ship, tho' I am well aware of the necessity of carefully providing for the Security of Halifax Yard. From the active State of Rebellion in which [this] and the neighboring Provinces are, I have so many urgent Occasions for Ships and Sloops that if the present number on the Station was doubled, here is full employment for the whole. My entrusting a place of such great importance to your care at this Juncture is certainly the best proof I can give of my reliance on your Vigilance and Zeal for his Majesty's Service, and I have not the least doubt but from your Example your Officers and Men will acquit themselves like brave and good Subjects upon the most trying occasions; therefore, till a greater force is sent out, you must do the best you can for the preservation and Defence of the Yard – It has given me Satisfaction to find by the Commanders of the Schooners how much Assistance you have given them. I am &c

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 130, 131, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, H.M.S. *Rose*,
RHODE ISLAND¹

Sir

Preston Boston June 29. 1775.

I have received your Letters June 5 and 19, the former giving an Account of an Insurrection at Rhode Island, happily quelled by your spirited and determined Behaviour, the latter inclosing Copies of a Letter to you from Nicholas Cooke Esqr of your Answer, and of the Particulars of an Action between the *Diana* Packet (Tender to the *Rose*) and two armed Sloops belonging to the Rebels. The Accounts of the Insurrection and Battle are of so much importance that I have transmitted copies of the whole to the Admiralty by the *Cer-*

berus, who sailed the 27th early in the Morning. The Vessels with Rum Sugar and Provisions are arrived,² and your People are returned in the *Charlotte* Sloop.

I am &c

Sam¹ Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 448, MassHS Transcript.

2. The prizes sent to Boston were the sloop *Phoenix*, William Dennis, from Philadelphia for Rhode Island, with flour, and the sloop *Victory*, with forty-seven hogsheads of rum, seized in Narragansett Bay. *Ibid.*, Prize List, II, 376, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO RICHARD WILLIAMS, NAVAL OFFICER AT
HALIFAX ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 29 June 1775

I have received your Letter June 19, and am very glad to find from the Accounts of the Officers of the Yard that the Schooners are in such Readiness as they are very much wanted. I have already spoken fully on the Subject of the Dispute between you and Capt. Medows, which being entirely at an end, I hope to hear of no more Differences, for I am perfectly satisfied that in your respective Departments his Majestys Service cannot be better carried on.

Money with great difficulty is now procured at 15½ p Cent discount. I will at once charge what Stores I order to be purchased for Halifax Yard to my contingent Account, to save further Trouble and the Expence of Freightage.

I enclose you a Copy of a Resolution of the Continental Congress, I have sent it likewise to the Admiralty, and acquainted them with the Loss Government hath, and will sustain by Exchange, and that it will be absolutely necessary to send out Money for the Service of the Squadron. You will do right I think to state this Matter to the Navy Board.²

As the Rebels throughout the whole Continent will distress Government by all means in their Power, I have secured all the Naval Stores I could get for the Yard and Squadron; As you have a pretty good Stock of Tar, I will stop purchasing any more, but Mr. [G.] Gefferina³ shall get what Pitch and Turpentine he can.

He will send you by my Order a Quantity of Tar, Pitch, Brimstone, Turpentine and Oars. The Tar I thought it best to buy as there is no likelihood of getting any more without great Difficulty and much Expence. I am &c.

Sam¹ Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 448-450, MassHS Transcript.

2. Resolution of June 2, 1775, refusing to accept draughts or supply provisions to King's officers.

3. Secretary to Vice Admiral Graves.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen,

New York, June 29h 1775

I did myself the Honor to write you yesterday since which I have received some Intelligence, which I think it my Duty to lay before you.

A Gentleman, a Member of the Provincial Congress here is this Afternoon arrived from Albany. He advises that a few of the Onida Indians are lately arrived at that Place in a Disposition very friendly to our Cause – that they have declared a Desire that the Indians should be called together at Albany, or in the Neighbourhood – that great Attention was paid them by the Albany Committee. – As so good an Opportunity to conciliate their Affections will I trust be readily embraced by your Honours, I have ventured to advise the Albany Committee to dismiss them with Presents, and Assurances that they will be speedily requested to meet persons appointed for the Purpose of holding a Conference with them, either at Albany, or any other convenient Place.

The Troops on Board the Transports at Sandy Hook from the best Intelligence I am able to procure, are destined for Boston. They have been detained to take in Water, and I am well assured that they are to sail tomorrow.

Permit me, Honoured Sirs, to request that I may be favoured with a Copy of the Arrangement of the General & Staff Officers in your Army – of the Pay allowed them, and every other officer & Soldier, and receive your Orders what Allowance of Provisions each Man is to have per Day, that all Troops under my Command may be equally provided for, to prevent Uneasiness.

Inclose a Copy of my Letter to Col. [Benjamin] Hinman commanding at Ticonderoga.

I am honoured Sirs respectfully &c

Ph. Schuyler

[Endorsed] Read [in Congress] July 1^t 1775

1. Papers CC, 153: I/5, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Jovis, 5 ho., June 29th, 1775.

A memorandum from Abraham Lott, Esquire, of the articles by him supplied to His Majesty's ship, between the twenty-third day of April and the sixteenth day of May last, was read and filed.

Mr. Lott also sent in a memorandum or list of provisions now wanted for His Majesty's Ship the *King's Fisher*, to wit: 2000 lb. of bread, two barrels of beef, two barrels of pork, one barrel of flour, and four barrels of butter.

Ordered, That Mr. Lott be at liberty to supply the above quantities of provisions to the said ship *King's Fisher*.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 61.

Rivington's *New-York Gazetteer*, THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1775

New-York, June 29.

Since our last, eight transports with troops, of the second embarkation from Cork, have arrived at Sandy-Hook, and agreeably to orders there received, will sail this day for Boston, under convoy of his Majesty's ship *Mercury*, Captain [John] M'Cartney.

The ship *Julianna* Capt. Montgomery, arrived at Sandy-Hook last Saturday night [June 24], from London in which vessel his excellency our Governor [William Tryon] came passenger. He landed at 8 o'clock on Sunday evening, and

was conducted to the house of the Hon. Hugh Wallace, Esq; by an immense number of the principal People of this city.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE CITY AND LIBERTIES OF
PHILADELPHIA ¹

In Committee June 29 1775

Ordered, That notice be given in the public papers to all masters of vessels which may arrive in this port, that the Committee of Inspection will meet every day at 12 o'clock, at the Coffee-house, to receive a report of their respective cargoes. And it is expected that no Captain will fail to attend the Committee the first noon after his arrival: And, that owners of vessels and consignees will direct their Captains accordingly.

Ordered, That the following report of the District Committee, No. 2, concerning the ship *Christopher*, Capt. [E.] Edwards, from Gibraltar, be made public, viz.

"We the District Committee, No. 2, appointed to attend the discharging a cargo of salt, from on board the ship *Christopher*, do report to the General Committee, that we have attended said duty with care; and that we are fully satisfied that no British goods were imported in said ship, nor the Association of the Congress in any wise violated." ²

Extract from the Minutes.

J. B. Smith, Secretary

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, Monday, July 3, 1775.

2. The ship *Christopher*, E. Edwards, master, was reported inward at the Philadelphia Custom House, June 19, 1775, *ibid.*, June 19, 1775.

CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON TO CHARLES CARROLL, JR. ¹

[Extract]

June 29th 1775

I wish [Charles] Lee had not been appointed a Generall, I do not like this Contradicting odd Temper It is Certainly our Interest to protract the War, never to Engage but with manifest advantage & I therefore wish with Ph Johnson that the New England Army at a greater distance from Boston. The Powder from Cape Francois out of the Kings Magazines is a pleasing Article, I wish it was Publick in London. Why did [John] Hall Quit the Congress? Da: Carroll Writes me that the News in the printed Paper I sent You is false, that a Gentn who came to Baltimore last Monday [June 26] from Philadelphia says so. I send you Glosers Phamphlet & Dunlaps Maryland Gazette that you may read Dor Free's Letter . . . What Powder Have you in the Store? without Powder cannot goe on with the Race. . . .

1. Carroll Papers, MdHS.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE DARLEY, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 29th June 1775

By Capt Camble Via Cork

I wrote you the 24th Inst by Liverpool since then am not favoured with any of yours. [Alexander] Kenedy Got out of the Capes the 2nd of this month

so I hope Ere this he has almost Made his passage. you will plase take notice that we have drawn on you for 100 £ Sterl favr of Robt Lisle Esqr and on perusall of the Inclosed acct Courent you will find you are in our Debt 312.2.3. Cury of Course you must think we ware under the necessity of Drawing. You have lists of all outstanding Debts due to you in the Countrey, Amtg to 414.1.8. and I do not think there is one bad one, but Carneys 10£ in which I think you are fortunate – You have also Inclosed bill of Loading for 30 barrells flour belonging to a Young Man that was going in the Schooner, but on the bad behaviour of the Capt he Quit her,² & Consignd the flour to you and its probabell the Young Man will be as soon with you as this letter as he is going in the Same Ship, I was Obliged to Advance him 40/ Sterg & take his order on you and now Inclose it to you and have Charged you with it – You must know that the Villin I got for Master of the Schooner put into Amboy, about the last of May, and remaind there to the 10th Inst I now Inclose you his protest which is by no Manes Sufficient and you Must get him to mend it before you turn him out (as you must put him out) you will find that he has only Mentiond his parting his Cable, which is Wrong as he Cut it, and the Vessell was Aground which he has taken no Notice off. Now to Recover the Value of the Anchor & Cable, he Should have Mentiond the Circumstanced of the Vessell being a Ground, and that he lost the Cable for the preservation of her & Cargo, and you Must Endeavour to get him to Mend it with you. You have Inclosed Stephen Skinners Acct Against the Vessell at Amboy. by which you will find the Carpenters bill to be only 32/ out of the Very Extravagant Expence Green has run the Vessell to there, on which Acct he Could not have been in Much Distress Else his Carpenters bill must have been learger. you have on the back of the Acct my notes, which I beg you May Strictly follow Against him, from the Carpanters Charge you will not only Se[e] the Absurdity of his putting in but the Still Greater Absurdity of his Staying there so long, and Runing the Vessell to Such Expences, however you will Easy Acct for that, when you know that he left his Vessell & went to Philada (70 Miles) for his Wife & Carried her down to Amboy with him, and tho he was well recommended to me – yet his Behaviour has been so bad since he left this, that I must Insist on your putting him out on your Side. Even if the Vessell Looses Something by it, as the first Loss will all ways be the least I have Desired Mr Skinner to Send you all the perticuler Accts that you may be able to Recover if you are Insured. I am fearfull I shall be obliged to Draw on you for 50 £ to pay her out fit but you may be assured I would not do it if I could Avoid it I refer you to G S for further perticulers . . . Green has not mentiond in his protest how he Came by the loss of Sails so as to run to that Extravagant Expence to the Sail Maker, nor any thing About Carrying a way Capt Mulfords Boom – and if a Man will neglect what is his duty he must pay all the Loss . . .

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. The schooner *Industry*, James Green, master.

WOOLSEY AND SALMON TO WILLIAM WILLCOCKS & Co., CORK ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 29 June [1775]

we send you by this opportunity Sundrey Newspapers, which will give you a More Extensive Vew of Affairs than we could write we wish Matters had not gone Such Lengthes as we fear the breach will be long off Haleing. however We believe Government still thought the people here would not fight, but be Assured they are much Mistaken, and if government will Continue to Send out troops, we think there will be a Very Bloody war on this Continent, but we Sincerely wish for pace and we think its the wish of all reasonable people if to be got on Good terms, at the same time allmost Every person will Sacrafize all or have it on Good terms – Vessells have been very Scarce this Spring Indeed not to be got we have now three orders for Ireland not Executed on that Acct – our present Crop of Wheat all ready for Cutting Some have begun, and if the weather proves favourable, Every person thinks we will have $\frac{1}{4}$ more to Export than we Ever had, & the Grain promises to be very fine however you Shall hear from us after it is Safe –

at present thers not the least prospect of Getting any of it Shipped, as England has Stopped our Shipping after the 21st July to Any place but England &c and our Congress has Stopped our Shipping to these Very places after the 10th Septr both which Resolvs will be Strictly Adhered to of Course all Exports will be Stopped . . .

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore 29th June 1775]

I note the last of your letter as to Polliticks I never like it for fear of my letters Miscarrying. however in hopes that this will go Safe, I will give you some Account now; & perhaps you have heard the most of it Ere this Reaches you. the first Battle at Lexington, in which the Engs troops Made a precipate retrate & Lost 150 Men killed & Wounded. the Contry people lost 40. odd Killed. the Second battle on Hog Isleand Just by Boston, the Country People drove off a Learge Quantity of Stock burned a tender & killed upwards of 100 Soldiers & Sailors however the Governer says there was but 21 killed. the Country had none Killed & but three Wounded. thre is a Report of a third Engagement Agreeable to the paper I now Inclose you, but its believed that thers no foundation for it, from Many Circumstances.

The Congress has Set long time Very privet and its not known when the[y] will brake up. the[y] have Agreed to pay an Army of 15 thousand Men, and have for that purpose orderd two Million of Dollars, to be Made, and the Different provinces are to Sink their proportions. the[y] have also ordered a Regement of Men to be raised in this Province, Virgina & Pensylvania to Carry Rifles &



Governor Robert Eden. By Florence MacKubin, c. 1910, after the lost original.

to Contain 800. these Men you may be Assured are to pick the Officers of the Regulars off, and in my opinion the Officers have Much to fear from them, as the[y] Can hit a Man with Certanty from 150 to 200 Yards. Besides the[y] Generally fight from Cover, and the[y] often times Cover them Selvs from sight with the the Most trifling Article the[y] meet with. the Congress has also Appointed Coln [George] Washington of Virginia to be Chieff in Command of all the Country troops on the Continent he is a Cool Sensible Man, and Great Matters is promised from his Experience & Beahaviour, the last Gaining him the Love & Esteem of Every person that knows him, and his Experience Made him be Chose for this Great Undertaking, in Short the Matters's become so Generall that all the provinces are Joined, and so Serious that thers no telling where it will End. and Lord Chatham has proved to the World that he knows more than the whole Minystre put together, if there designs are good, but its Generally believed here that the Scotch party wants to Bring about a Revolution in England. Every day Widens the Difference between England & us, as you may be Assured Every Scirmish will Make the Country people Warmer & more Experienced. so you must think it will be the harder to Settle Matters – there is three Camps at or Near Boston of Country Soldiers, and the people have been so Desireous of Serveing there Country that the[y] have about 15000 Men in those Camps, and all under Strict Desiplinge and officers, and no doubt the[y] will be Every day better Soldiers and the[y] Can so Easey Recruit that the[y] will all ways be a Match for the Soldiers and in the End must be Victorious Indeed so much is the Country people back Interested that the[y] are all most Wrangling to try to get Inlisted in the Regement of Riflemen which I think promises badly for the Schemes of Government I did not think I could have Said so much About these Matters – . . . I Expect Every day to here of a bloody Engagement at boston. . . .

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *Saint John*, LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT, COMMANDING ¹

June 1775

Anchored of[f] Tybees Light house

Thursday 29 Light airs and hazey Wr At 2 PM Tybee Light house N-N W 3 or 4 leagues Saw a sail proved to be a Sloop. Got down the Stud sails and halld up for her – At 4 fired 4 Three pounders and brought her to, boarded and Rummaged her being from New Providence – Rec'd on board a pilot – Bore away for the Barr – At ½ past 5 Anchord off the light house Saw a large Tent on the Beach Near the Light house and a Number of Men on said beach and the like in boats on the Water, and the liberty flag flying on the Top of Tybees light house – Sent a letter in the above Sloop to Sr James Wright – Loaded the Guns with round and Grape shot – Mounted 2 Guns on the stern handy if they should Attempt to board us which they threatned Keep the Schooners Company under Arms all Night . . .

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

30 June

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Cambridge] June 30, 1775

Whereas, a considerable number of Whale-Boats have been procured for the service of this Colony, and many of them are said to be now in the Towns of Braintree and Weymouth, and unless proper care be taken of said Boats they will probably sustain great damage; therefore,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the honourable Congress that such order be taken respecting said Boats as their wisdom may direct.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1362, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Friday, June 30, 1775

Ordered, That Colonel [Peter] Coffin, Mr. [Isaac] Lothrop, Captain [Joseph] Nye, Captain [Daniel] Bragdon, and Colonel [David] Mitchell, be a Committee to inquire into the state of the two Light-Houses at Cape Ann, and the Light-House at the entrance of Boston Harbour, and also that at Plymouth, and consider whether it is expedient to continue the lights therein.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Preston, Boston] June 30th [1775]

The General making application to the Admiral for two Scows, or large open flat bottomed Boats, to be armed and manned and to be stationed at Charles Town Neck as Out Posts to the Army; he ordered the *Somerset* and *Boyne* to send in Turn, a Lieut 2 Midsn and 35 Seamen to the Scows – and 36 Seamen on board the *Symmetry* armed Transport, appointed to assist in guarding the mouth of Charles River.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 133, MassHS Transcript.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N. ¹

(Copy)

Boston June 30th 1775.

Sir Reports have reached us that Major [Philip] Skene, had Arrived at Philadelphia from England, tho bound to Quebec, that he had Military Stores on board his Ship, and a large Sum of Money, that the Congress had taken him, Money and Stores &ca. into their possession,² should this be true I am to beg the favor of you to inform Lord Dartmouth of it Immediately, and let him know it is by my desire you do it,

I am Sir, &ca.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. See Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 82 (June 8, 1775).

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston 30th: June 1775. –

Sir./ A Committee of the Council have Just been with me, to Inform me they are going on the business of the Fishery, And that it may be properly effected,

desire a List of the Persons to whom you have given Passes may be sent them as soon as possible; I am therefore to beg you to send me a List of the Names of such Fisherman, as Now Act under your passes, as soon as it can be made out,

I am, Sir: [&c.]

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston 30 June 1775

Inclosed is a List of all the General fishing Passes I have granted. I am Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

DISPOSITION OF THE [BRITISH] FLEET ON THE 30TH OF JUNE 1775.¹

Names	Guns	Commanders	Complement	Station
		Vice Admiral Graves		
<i>Preston</i>	50	Capt John Robinson	300	} Off the Town In Kingroad In Charles River } In Boston Harbour
<i>Somerset</i>	64	Le Cras	500	
<i>Boyne</i>	70	Hartwell	500	
<i>Glasgow</i>	20	Howe	130	
<i>Lively</i>	20	Bishop	130	} At Nantasket
<i>Falcon</i>	14	Linzee	100	
				Gone to Penobscot to dismantle a fort there
<i>Rose</i>	20	Wallace	130	} At Rhode Island.
<i>Swan</i>	16	Ayscough	100	
<i>Asia</i>	64	Vandeput	500	} At New York.
<i>Kingsfisher</i>	16	Jas. Montagu	100	
<i>Mercury</i>	20	Macartney	130	On her passage to Virginia to relieve the <i>Fowey</i>
<i>Nautilus</i>	16	Collins	100	Cruising off the Hook. ordered to river Delaware.
<i>Fowey</i>	20	Geo. Montagu	130	} At Virginia
<i>Otter</i>	16	Squire	100	
<i>Magdalen</i>	6	Lieutt Colins	30	Do ordered into the Delaware
<i>Cruizer</i>	8	Capt. Parry	60	At North Carolina.
<i>Tamer</i>	16	Thornborough	100	At South Carolina.
<i>Savage</i>	8	Bromedge	60	} East Florida & Bahama Islands
<i>St John</i>	6	Lt Grant	30	
<i>Merlin</i>	16	Capt. Burnaby	100	At Marblehead.
<i>Hope</i>	6	Lt Dawson	30	At Salem.
<i>Scarborough</i>	20	Capt. Barkley	130	In Piscataqua River.
<i>Senegal</i>	14	Dudingstone	100	At Falmouth in Casco Bay.
<i>Tartar</i>	28	Medows	160	At Halifax for its protection
<i>Canceaux A.S.</i>	6	Mowat	45	Do to heave down.
<i>St. Laurence Schr</i>	6	John Graves	30	Do fitting out.
<i>Halifax Schr</i>	6	De la Touche	30	Do Do.
<i>Diligent Schr</i>	6	Knight	30	At Windsor in the Bay of Fundy
<i>Gaspee Brig</i>	6	Hunter	30	between Casco & Chaleur Bay

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 132, MassHS Transcript.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Rose, Rhode Island 30th June 1775.

Sir The Pirate Sloops mentioned, in my last of the 19th Inst still keeps up about Providence, they propagate Reports, that they have thirty Whale Boats and seven Sloops ready to come upon Us, When a convenient Opportunity offers, however this Town appears to be divided. Many are jealous of the Providence People, and I am promised an Association acknowledging their Allegiance and binding themselves to support the King's Government, whither they are serious, time will discover ('twas first agitated at a Turtle Feast) if it happens it will make Dissensions among them, and very little additional Force would secure this Port to the King; whereas if the Dregs of the Rebel Army come down among Us, it will be much more difficult. Accounts from the Southward says Governor [William] Tryon is arrived at [New] York. The Continental Congress have appointed four Rebel Generals, Colo Washington of Virginia Captain General – General [Artemus] Ward at Boston 2d General. Mad [Charles] Lee 3d and Major [Horatio] Gates 4th – Washington is now at [New] York on his way for Boston. a Party is set off from Connecticut to take Prisoner Sr John Johnson – while I am writing a Copy of the Association is sent, am told 'twill be augmented to more than three hundred all principal Men, the design of it they assure me is to assist His Majs Government without Equivocation. Hope it will be so, those who formerly signed are to be depended upon

Sign'd James Wallace

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

ACCOUNT OF CANNON IN RHODE ISLAND ¹[June 30, 1775] ²

Account of the Coloneys Cannon. and what Numb[er]

- 6. Twenty four pounders Lent the Continental A[rmy]
 - 6. Eighteen pounders. Lent Ditto
 - 8. Eighteen pounders. mounted at Providence
 - 2. Nine pounders mounted. at Ditto
 - 6. four pounders. on board the Sloop *Catey*
 - 2. Eighteen pounders. mounted at Pawtuxit
 - 1. four pounders. mounted at Ditto
 - 3. four pounders
 - 2 Six pounders
 - 2. Eighteen pounders
- } as Yet Unappropriated

1. RIHS Mss. Collection.

2. An arbitrary date.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Sir,

New York June 30th 1775.

I do myself the Honour to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of the 28th Inst which I received late last Night – enclosing the Resolutions of Con-

gress of the preceding Day, and a Copy of a Letter from the Committee at Albany bearing Date 20th. June 1775.

In Obedience to the Resolutions of Congress, I shall without Delay repair to Ticonderoga. It will however be necessary previous to my Departure from hence that I should take Order to have the Variety of Articles necessary to carry into Execution the Views of the Congress sent after me with all Expedition. This will probably detain me until Monday.

The Success of the intended Operation will evidently depend so much on Dispatch, that I am sorry I do not think myself at Liberty to move the Troops now here to Albany without the immediate Consent of Congress. At this Place I do not apprehend they can be wanted. At Albany they would greatly facilitate and expedite the Service, as well as save Expence by their Assistance in the Transportation of Stores and Provisions, and by their Aid in building Boats, Carriages &c And as they must ultimately go on this Service, the Forces at Ticonderoga being vastly inadequate to the Enterprize, I wish for the Sense of the Congress with all possible Dispatch, and therefore I send this by Express.

On a Service of this Kind in which Success will be attended with such a Variety of important and salutary Consequences, I beg Leave to suggest that every Measure ought to be pursued that has a probable Tendency to it, and therefore I hint that on a Service in which we shall in all Probability, be encountered by Indians, a Body of Rifle Men would be of vast Utility. Perhaps I might be favoured with Part, at least, of those now levying in Pennsylvania.

I shall immediately dispatch a trusty Person, Mr Walter Livingston to Govr [Jonathan] Trumbull for the two important Articles of Money & Ammunition, neither of which can at any Rate be procured here. The former is so much wanted here that I am under apprehensions that the Service in general may suffer, unless the Provincial Congress of this Place can have a supply speedily.

The Appointments I recommended in mine of the 28th are now become so pressingly necessary, that I beg Leave again to recommend them to the Attention of Congress.

I am Sir with the greatest Respect, yours &c

Ph. Schuyler

1. Papers CC, 153: I, 5, NA. See Journal of Congress for July 1, 1775, for action upon this letter.

MASTER'S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Mercury*¹

June 1775

Rem[ark]s &c. on bd His Majts. Ship *Mercury*

Friday 30th

A M Arived here two Sail of Transports Do Saild hence with Eight More Transports Under Conv[o]y of his Majts Sloop *Nautilus* at 9 weighe[d] and Stood in for the watring place at 10 Anchored in 3 fm water and Veard away $\frac{1}{4}$ of a Cable the Light house NEBN poin[t] Comfort WNW, Sent the Longboat with Empty Casks and Men to fill them PM the Longboat Empd watring Spoke a Snow 9 week from Galsgow has in 47 pass [engers] on bd

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1866.

JOURNAL OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSEMBLY ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, June 30, 1775

Resolved, That John Dickinson, George Gray, Henry Wyncoop, Anthony Wayne, Benjamin Bartholomew, George Ross, Michael Swoope, John Montgomery, Edward Biddle, William Edmonds, Bernard Daugherty, Samuel Hunter, William Thompson, Thomas Willing, Benjamin Franklin, Daniel Roberdeau, John Cadwalader, Andrew Allen, Owen Biddle, Francis Johnston, Richard Reily, Samuel Morris, Jun., Robert Morris, Thomas Wharton, Jun., and Robert White, Gentlemen, be a Committee of Safety for calling forth such and so many of the Associators into actual service when Necessity requires, as the said Committee shall judge proper, for Paying and Supplying them with Necessaries while in actual Service, for providing for the Defence of this Province against Invasion and Insurrection, and for encouraging and promoting the Manufacture of Saltpetre; which said Committee are hereby authorized and impowered to draw orders on the Treasurer hereinafter appointed for the several Purposes above mentioned.

Resolved, That any Seven or more, of the said Committee shall be a Board for transacting the Business aforesaid, or any Part thereof.

1. Hazard *et al.*, *Pennsylvania Archives*, 8th series, vol. VIII, 7247.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1775

Williamsburg, June 30.

Early yesterday morning sailed from York town his Majesty's ship *Fowey*, and the *Magdalen* schooner; which last, we are informed, proceeds to England immediately, with Lady Dunmore, and the rest of the Governour's family, attended by his Lordship's chaplain, the Reverend Mr. Gwatkin. The *Fowey*, we hear, carries Lord Dunmore, and Capt. Edward Foy, to Boston, on a visit to General [Thomas] Gage, &c. &c.¹

1. Alexander Purdie learned quickly that Dunmore was not going to Boston.

JOSIAH MARTIN, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

My Lord, North Carolina Fort Johnston 30th June 1775.

Since I had the honor of representing to your Lordship the State of this Country in my Dispatch No 33 various circumstances have occurred of which I think it my duty to give your Lordship the best account my information enables me to lay before you.

On Tuesday the 23d of May a day when a set of People, calling themselves a Committee met at Newbern a motley mob, without any previous notice of their purpose, appeared coming towards my House. I did not see them until they were near my door, and supposing they were the committee of whose meeting I had heard, I directed my Secretary, if they announced themselves by that name to signify my resolution not to see them, he came to me however with a message from this body, importing that they were the Inhabitants of the Town of New Bern who were come to wait upon me, and requested to be admitted to speak to me, I directed them to be shown into an Apartment below stairs, and immediately went down to them. Mr Abner Nash, an Attorney, and the oracle

of the Committee appointed in that Town, whom I have before had occasion to mention to your Lordship, as a principal promoter of sedition here, came forward out of the crowd, and presenting himself before me said he had been chosen by the Inhabitants of Newbern then present to signify their purpose in waiting upon me, that it was in consequence of a general alarm, the People of the place had taken that morning at my dismounting some pieces of old cannon which lay behind my house, and which had occasionally been made use of on rejoicing days; that this circumstance had caused alarm, because the Governor of Virginia had lately deprived the People of that Colony of their Ammunition, and that the Inhabitants therefore requested, and hoped I would order the Guns to be remounted, and restored to the same order they had been in until that morning. Unprepared as I was My Lord, for such a visit, and filled with indignation at the absurdity and impertinence of the cause of it, assigned by Mr Nash, and satisfied also that it was a mere pretext for insulting me, I replied that the visit of the inhabitants of Newberne, and the motives of it I thought very extraordinary. That the Guns which I had dismounted belonged to the King, and that I was duly answerable to His Majesty for any disposition I made of them, but being at the same time inclined to quiet the minds of the Inhabitants of Newbern and to give them every reasonable satisfaction, I then declared to them that I had dismounted the Guns, and laid them on the ground because the carriages were entirely rotten and unserviceable and incapable of bearing the discharge of them on the King's birthday that was at hand, and for the celebration of which I was making the usual preparation of those Guns. Mr Nash said he was persuaded the Answer I had condescended to give would be very satisfactory to the Inhabitants of New Bern, and bowing retired with his mob. I must confess to your Lordship the reason I assigned for dismounting those guns, was really but one of my motives, and that I had another which I did not think fit to communicate upon that occasion. I had received for some weeks before repeated advices of a design concerting in the Committee of that Town, to seize those guns by force, and my principal object in throwing them off the carriages at the time I did it (although it was really necessary and intended for the other avowed purpose) was to make the removal of them more difficult in case of such an attempt, and to procure thereby more time to defend them, or at least to parley about them. A day or two after this studied insult a certain old soldier arrived at New Bern from New York, who having been instructed with the Execution of a Commission of importance in this Country, came to me and told me, after communicating his own business, and being assured of my best assistance, that he had learnt on Board the *Kings Fisher* Sloop of War at New York, that she had Arms and Ammunition on Board, intended to be sent to me by the first opportunity that offered, in consequence of an application I had made for such aids to General Gage, and that Lieutenant Governor [Cadwallader] Colden at New York who had received Dispatches from the General to me, which were supposed to refer to those Stores, and committed them to the Post, was under the greatest anxiety for their safety, having discovered that the Committees had proceeded in some places to the extravagance

of violating Letters sent by that channel. Upon interrogating his intelligence about the manner in which it was designed to convey the Arms and Ammunition to me, which he mentioned, I found him altogether uncertain, whether they were to be sent by a Man of War, or a Merchant's Vessel, and that he encouraged apprehensions of the latter by observing it might happen from the mistaken opinion the People held in the Northern Provinces of the universal Loyalty and good disposition of the Inhabitants of this Colony. Thus My Lord I had to expect on the one hand, that my correspondence with General Gage, would be at once betrayed, and to fear at the same time that the expected Stores might come in a Merchant's Vessel to New Bern, where I had not a man to protect them, and that they must of consequence fall into the hands of the mob, which was continually watching every movement about my house, and by which possible accident all my good purposes would be defeated. On the other hand I was to apprehend either of those cases, would furnish reason for insult to me, and my family at least, and might probably become a pretext for seizing my person and detaining me, according to the design avowed in all the Colonies, continually of making themselves eventually Masters of the King's Servants, among them, and the more probable too, as a most infamous report had lately been propagated among the People, that I had formed a design of Arming the Negroes, and proclaiming freedom to all such as should resort to the King's Standard. It was therefore immediately necessary to take some measures to prevent if possible the Military Stores falling into the hands of the Mob, and to obviate any ill consequences that might arise from the promulgation of my correspondence with General Gage. Accordingly I determined after revolving the matter a moment in my mind, to relieve myself from all embarrassments that the sufferings of my family might expose me to, by sending them instantly to New York, which would at the same time furnish me with a certain unsuspected opportunity of writing to prevent any hazard of the Arms and Ammunition if they were not already sent away; place Mrs Martin and my children in safety, and leave me at liberty to pursue such measures as occasion might call for. This purpose I executed immediately, writing to General Gage of my situation, and I set out almost at the same time for this place, where one of His Majesty's Sloops of War is stationed, intending as well as the security of my person in all events that I could not yet expose with any possible advantage to His Majesty's Service, as to employ the most effectual means with the assistance of Capt. [Francis] Parry Commander of the *Cruizer* Sloop of War, to secure the Arms and Ammunition if they should be sent away before my advices, dispatched with my family, should reach New York, and lest my further precaution of posting my Secretary at Acracock Inlet, the first entrance to the Port of New Bern, to bring any Vessel that should arrive there with those stores round to the Man of War in this river should prove ineffectual. Accordingly on my arrival here on the 2d instant, I communicated to Capt. Parry the circumstances I have here related to your Lordship, suggesting my wishes at the same time, that he could spare from his Ship a sufficient force to waylay at Ocracock the Vessel I had reason to expect with

Military Stores, in order to compel her in case of necessity to bring them round here to be lodged in safety on board His Majesty's Ship under his Command. Captain Parry to whom my Lord, I owe it in justice to say that he embraces with the utmost alacrity every occasion to promote the King's Service, instantly seeing the importance of the object of my concern, assured me of his most willing and effectual assistance and accordingly without any loss of time, detached an officer and a party of men well armed in a little schooner to secure that point.² Since my first intelligence I have heard nothing to be depended on relative to the Arms and Ammunition, but I am in hopes, from comparison of dates, that the letters from General Gage, which caused Mr Colden and myself so much anxiety, were what I have since received a few, that contained nothing more than an Account of the Affair of the 20th of April between a Detachment of the King's Troops and the People of the neighborhood of Boston which reached me in little less time than two months after the event, and too late to operate against the infamous and false reports of that transaction which were circulated to this Distance from Boston in the space of 12 or 13 days, and had already like all first impressions taken deep root in the minds of the vulgar here universally and wrought a great change in the face of things, confirming the seditious in their evil purposes, and bringing over vast numbers of the fickle, wavering and unsteady multitude to their party. This was an effect to be apprehended, and it will be the same unquestionably in all future occurrences, unless a regular communication is established, by which the Accounts transmitted by the King's General and Admiral of their operations may anticipate the gross and abominable forgeries of the New England People, and I have accordingly represented the expediency of it to General Gage.

. . . I hold my former opinion, that if my hands were strengthened with the aids I have required of General Gage, I could not only maintain the sovereignty of this Province to His Majesty, with the power I could collect immediately among the Emigrants from the Highlands of Scotland, who were settled here, and immoveably attached to His Majesty and His Government, that I am assured by the best authority I may compute at 3000 effective men, but should be able to draw together under that protection, out of the interior Counties of this Province, where the People are in General well affected, much attached to me, at least two thirds of the fighting men in the whole Country; which may be computed according to my best information to exceed Thirty Thousand and with which I could effectually restore order here and in South Carolina, and hold Virginia in such awe as to prevent that Province sending any succour to the Northward, added to which such a head made here against rebellion, would draw over to it such multitudes of well affected Subjects of His Majesty from other Colonies who only want countenance to induce them to take an open part in favour of Government as would put it in my power to reduce to order and obedience every Colony to the Southward of Pennsylvania . . .

As I fear the busy scene in which General Gage is at this time employed, may not afford him leisure to attend minutely to objects at this distance, I should

ardently wish, that the importance of my proposition above mentioned, may be taken into consideration by your Lordship, and submitted to the King, and in the case of its meeting with His Majesty's Royal Approbation, that the supplies of arms and ammunition I have requested of General Gage should be sent in a fourfold proportion to me from England immediately. Ten Thousand Stand of Arms at least with proper Accoutrements may be disposed in hands that would make a good use of them, and I should wish them to be accompanied with six light brass field pieces, Six Pounders with all their attail, and good store of Ammunition, some pairs of Colours, Drums, &c. and such a supply of money as might be necessary for the support of such a force.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 41-46.

2. On Thursday, June 9, Captain Parry entered in his journal, "sent the Lieutt. & 7 men on bd a Schooner calld the *Royl hunter*," PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

LORD WILLIAM CAMPBELL, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO VICE ADMIRAL
SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Charles Town June 30th 1775

Sir I have the Honour to acquaint You that I arrived here the 17th Instant, in His Majesty's Ship *Scorpion*, and according to the Orders I received from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, I have directed Mr [John] Tollemache to proceed to Boston and join You.

I have wrote to General [Thomas] Gage of what great utility it would be to His Majesty's Service if a regular and frequent Correspondence was kept up between Boston and the Southern Governments of this Continent, and how much We stood in need of a couple of Frigates, and some small Vessels on this Station; it would be a great check to Smugling which is now carried on in the most barefaced manner, both with the Dutch and French, and would give some little countenance to the Friends of Government in this Province who cannot help looking upon themselves as totally deserted. I also informed General Gage that if the Fate of this part of His Majs Dominions depended upon my procuring an Advice Boat in this Harbour, that I firmly believed I could not effect it, to so low a pass is the Authority of Government reduced in this Province Sir James Wright and Governor [Josiah] Martin will I hope join their instances to mine on this occasion, as I believe our Situation is exactly similar, and if a small Armed Vessel could be spared to be entirely under the direction of this Government to keep open the communication with Georgia and N. Carolina, it could not fail of being attended with the best consequences. I am well convinced, Sir, your known Zeal for his Majesty's Service will induce You to give us every Assistance in your power in the present critical Situation of Affairs.

Sign'd William Campbell

N.B. Governor Martin having strongly requested that the *Scorpion* might call at Cape Fear in her Passage to Boston, I have desired Mr Tollemache to stop there (but for as short a time as possible) and receive Governor Martin's Dispatches.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.



Governor Lord William Campbell. By Francis Cotes, date unknown.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *Saint John*, LIEUT. WILLIAM GRANT,
COMMANDING ¹

June 1775 Anchord off Tybee Light house
Friday 30 sent the Master and boat to see if a conveyance could be had to forwad
a Letter to Sr Js Wright Recd at St Augustine Several boats pass-
ing and re-passing
at 2 PM the master and the boat return'd unmolested Fired away
to bring to 8 three pounders loaded with grape and Round Shot at a
Carolina pilot boat Whom would not bring to – Fired a way to bring
to a Schooner from Carolina – Boarded and Rummaged her She
only with passingers for Georgia Boarded and Rummaged a
Schooner from St Vincent Sent the Cutter with an Officer to
Town with a letter to the Governor –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

GEORGE BASCOME TO GEORGE CLINTON, DELEGATE TO THE CONTINENTAL
CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

Notwithstanding several Years have elapsed since I have been favored with a Line from you, yet learning that you are at Philadelphia in the distinguished Character of a member of the Continental Congress, on whose Wisdom all America relies for Redress of the manifold Grievances it labors under; and for Deliverance from the multiplied oppressions cruelly heaped on it by the Folly and Bigotry of a corrupt ministry; I cannot help doing myself the Honor of renewing an acquaintance, which, during my Stay at New York, was peculiarly dear to me; and the Remembrance of which is too deeply impressed on my mind to be effaced by the ocean that rolls between us or by any Length of Time. Future ages will view with admiration & applause the unparalleled Wisdom and virtue of the noble Americans while they peruse the faithful Page of the present Aera.

Many Circumstances concur in rendering us, in Bermuda, passive Spectators on this critical occasion. Our Lands afford us Provisions scarcely sufficient for two months' subsistence in a year and our Island is so difficult of access, but in a few places that it would be in the power of a few Cruizers to starve us were they disposed to do it tho' the Ports of the Continent were open and free. Our Consequence, beside in the American system of Politics is too inconsiderable to promise any accession of weight to your measures were we publicly to interfere. We really wish well to your Cause; and this is all Prudence will permit us to say.

We are greatly alarmed, and not without sufficient Reason, at the dismal Prospect which daily opens to our view. Famine stares us in the Face; and our Condition must be truly miserable if the Ports on the Continent are shut

and no Permission given us to import Provisions for our Consumption. To obtain this our Inhabitants have chosen Deputies to apply to the Congress in their Behalf, and our address goes by this vessel under Cover to Benjamin Franklin and John Dickinson, Esquires. Our Eyes are fixed on you for Relief, and on your Deliberations will depend the Fate of near fourteen thousand Souls. That Humanity and universal Philanthropy which breathe through the whole of your Proceedings induces us to hope that our application will meet a favorable Reception. I must entreat the favor of you to patronize it. You will by this means confer an eternal obligation on our little Island and immortalize your own memory.

Bermuda, June 30th, 1775

1. Hastings, ed., *Clinton Papers*, I, 207, 208.

1 July

COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

In Congress Watertown July 1st 1775

The Committee appointed to take the Remonstrance from the Committee of Correspondence of the Town of Sandwich ² into consideration have considered the same and report as follows viz

That the people of the Town of Dartmouth mentioned in the remonstrance who withheld said Vessels from the said [Johnston] Wing & [Jesse] Barlow be notified to appear the 2d Tuesday of the next meeting of the house of representatives in Watertown to give their reasons why they withhold the same and that Wing & Barlow be notified to attend at the same time & place which is humbly submitted

Ezra Richmond pr order

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 29.

2. See Nathaniel Freeman's letter of May 27, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Saturday, July 1, 1775

Ordered, That Mr. [Isaac] Lothrop, Mr. Dickenson and Mr. [Stephen] Nye be a Committee to consider a Resolve of the Committee of Safety, respecting Whale-boats.

The Committee appointed to consider the Resolve of the Committee of Safety relative to Whale-boats, reported. The Report was recommitted.

Afternoon

The Committee appointed to consider of means for securing sundry Whale-Boats procured for the use of this Colony, and now lying at Weymouth and

Braintree, beg leave to report, that Captain Edmund Soper, of Braintree, be empowered to take charge of the same, and with the assistance of Captain Seth Turner's and Captain [John] Vinton's Companies (now posted in Braintree) convey and secure them in some safe and convenient place, where they will not be exposed either to the enemy or the weather; and there to remain until the further order of this or some future Congress, or House of Representatives.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1468–1474, from Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] July 1 [1775]

The *Falcon* and *Resolution* Transport arrived with the Guns and Artillery Stores from Fort William and Mary at Piscataqua River. The *Hope* Schooner brought in several vessels laden with Fuel.² The *Senegal* returned from Falmouth with Captain [Thomas] Coulsons Ship lately launched and rigged there, and Captain [William] Duddingston brought an Account that the *Margueritta* armed Schooner, sent Convoy to Mr Ichabod Jones's Vessels to Mechias, was taken by several armed Vessels in that River, after an obstinate Engagement in which Mr [James] Moore her Commander was killed with some of the Crew, and many wounded & all the Survivors, together with Mr Jones and his People carried Prisoners up the Country.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 133, MassHS Transcript.

2. The *Hope's* prizes were the sloop *Sally*, James Jordan, master, from Georgia; and the schooner *Judith*, Isaac Elwin, master, from Sheepscoot. Both carried cargoes of wood. The *Judith* had been cut out of Gloucester harbor. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, 376, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CONNECTICUT ¹

At a General Assembly of the Governor and Company of the English Colony of Connecticut in New England in America holden at Hartford by Special order of the Governor of said Colony on Saturday the First Day of July,

Annoque Domini 1775

Resolved by this Assembly, That two vessels of a suitable burthen be immediately fitted out and armed with a proper number of cannon, swivel-guns and small arms, and furnished with necessary warlike stores, and well officered and mann'd for the defence of the sea-coasts in this Colony, under the care and direction of his Honor the Governor and Committee of Council appointed to assist him in the recess of the General Assembly, who are hereby authorized and directed to procure, furnish and employ the same accordingly.

1. J. H. Trumbull and C. J. Hoadley, eds., *Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut 1636–1776* (Hartford, 1850–90), XV, 99, 100. Hereafter cited as Trumbull and Hoadley, eds., *Connecticut Records*.

PAY ROLL OF THE CONTINENTAL SLOOP *Enterprise* ¹

Pay Roll of the Sloop *Enterprise*, &c. from the 3d day of May to the 1st day of July, 1775

John Prout Sloan,	Captain	Amos Gelucia,	Marine
Timothy Alcost,	Mate	Abner Rowe,	do.
Abner Bradley,	Sailor	Thomas Fitch,	do.
Simeon Hayward,	do.	William Draper,	do.
Matthew McClure,	do.	James Brakenage,	do.
David Sturgis,	do.	Abijah Beardsley,	do.
P. Allen,	do.	Uriah Cross,	do.
William Kincade,	Cook and Sailor	Samuel Allen,	do.
Sandy Trube,	Sailor	Ephraim Masters,	do.
Thomas Jenks,	do.	Ichabod Parker,	do.
Aaron Kinsbury,	do.	Jonas Gelucia,	do.
Samuel Whitmore,	do.	Ichabod Hawley,	do.
Elisha Sherman,	do.	John Hart,	do.
James Watson,	Lieutenant	David Crawfoot,	do.
Ephraim Botts,	Sergeant	John Lochrain,	do.
Josiah Sanborn,	do.		
Whole Amount		£135	6 2½
Billeting money for one hundred and thirty-three days, six pence per day		3	6 6
Twenty-seven Blankets, twelve Shillings apiece		16	4 0
		£154	16 8½
Received of Colonel [Benedict] Arnold, by the Company		55	3 5¼
Balance due		£ 99	13 3¾

1. Mass. Arch., Journal of the House of Representatives, Wednesday, August 23, 1775, extract: "The Committee on Colonel Arnold's Account reported a Resolve for the payment of Captain John Sloan's Pay Roll, amounting to ninety-nine Pounds, thirteen Shillings, and three Pence farthing. Read and accepted." As the *Enterprise* was not taken at St. John's until May 17, 1775, the payroll must have embraced land service under Captain Sloan from May 3, 1775, until the capture of the sloop.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, July 1, 1775

During the debate [on Indian affairs] letters were recd by express from Genl [Philip] Schuyler, which requiring an immediate answer, the same were taken into consideration.

Resolved, That Genl Schuyler be directed not to remove Genl [David] Wooster or the troops under his command from N. York, but that he raise as many of the Green Mountain boys under such officers as they shall chuse with such other men in the vicinity of Ticonderoga as will be necessary to carry into execution the resolutions of the Congress of the 27 of June last transmitted to him.

Ordered, this this be transmitted to Gen. Schuyler by the Prest

On motion, *Resolved*, That Lieutt. Patrick Moncrieff have liberty to return to England, on giving his parole of honour, that he will not act against the Americans in the present controversy between Great Britian and these Colonies.²

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 123, 124.

2. Moncrieff was one of the officers with Governor Philip Skene, who arrived June 7, 1775 in the ship *Prosperity*, Captain William McCullouch, from London.

JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, TO MAJOR
GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER ¹

Sir

Philadelphia July 1st 1775

I duly received your letter of 29th and 30th ult (that referred to by you of 28th not yet come to hand) and immediately laid them before the Congress, in Consequence of which I have their directions to transmit you their resolution – whereby you will observe that Genl [David] Wooster is ordered with the Troops under his command to remain at New York and that you raise as many of the Green Mountain boys and others in the vicinity of Ticonderoga as will be necessary to execute the resolutions of Congress I heretofor transmitted you –

You will please particularly to notice that altho' the Congress have given you peremptory Instructions to take or destroy all the vessels boats &c preparing by Govr [Guy] Carlton on or near the Lake Yet with respect to your proceedings to Montreal and Quebec such circumstances are pointed out by their resolutions which they expect you be fully possessed of previous to your undertaking the prosecution of that expedition

I inclose you the arrangement of the Officers with their pay so far as has been determined by Congress as soon as the whole is settled You shall be made acquainted –

As to the allowance of Provisions that at present must be left to your discretion until you hear further from this Congress or the General on that subject

I am to inform you that besides the quantity of Powder sent from Connecticut to Ticonderoga the Committee of this City by desire of Congress Yesterday sent forward fifty quarter casks of Powder to that place –

Any resolutions of Congress that take place respecting You I shall be careful immediately to transmit you – I am Sir [&c.]

John Hancock President

1. Hancock Letter Book, 1775–1776, Force Transcript, LC.

SOUTH CAROLINA DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO THE SOUTH
CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen

Philadelphia July 1. 1775

By Directions of the continental Congress, we have sent the Vessell by which this goes, to procure from you a Quantity of Gun-Powder for the Use of the Armies now actually in the Field for the Service of America. The frequent severe Skirmishes in the Neighbourhood of Boston have so exhausted their Magazine, that an immediate Supply is absolutely necessary

We entreat you to purchase all that can be bought in Town; & to dispatch this Vessel with it for this Place as soon as possible; Together with as much as can be spared out of the Public Stock without Danger to your own Safety

Shoud there be any damaged Powder on Hand please send it also, as it may be recovered here

By one of the Resolutions-enclosed to the General Committee you'l see that it is recommended to the Southern Colonies to secure all the Salt Petre that can be got as well from the Stores as from private Persons,² which, as you have no Powder Mills erected or Persons skilful in making Gun Powder, we would advise may be sent to be manufactured here – Shoud you be able to send more than four Thousand Weight of Powder we woud wish the overplus may be sent by some other Opportunity

In order to prevent Suspicion we have sent [blank] Bushells of Indian Corn in this Vessell which may be sold or exchanged for Rice, in which the Casks of Powder may be concealed so, perhaps as to prevent Suspicion should she unhappily be unable to avoid being overtaken by a Cruizer

The utmost Secrecy and Dispatch are absolutely necessary

As large Quantities of Powder will be wanted we strongly recommend that you continue to import all that you can, and think it probable that large Quantity's might be got from the Government of the Havana as we can find no application there from any of these Colonies

We are, Gentlemen, [&c.]

Henry Middleton
Tho Lynch
Chris^t Gadsden

J: Rutledge
E Rutledge

1. Emmet Autograph Collection, NYPL. A copy in the Charles Roberts Autograph Collection, Haverford College Library.

2. Continental Congress Resolve of June 10, 1775.

ROBERT BEVERLY TO SAMUEL ATHANES, LONDON ¹

[Extract]

[Virginia, July 1775] ²

I have not written to you for several Months past, except a short Letter June 4th to direct Insurance on 30 hhds Tobo on board the *Justitia*, Capt Kidd – He went off with only 17 . . . leaving out 14 . . . wh I had given him Orders for, & wh I have now consigned to you by the *Job*, Capt Gibson . . . I have at this Time I verily believe more than 5000 Bushels of Wheat for Sale, & unfortunately for me the Complexion of our Affairs will render it totally useless, nor do I exaggerate, when I assert that the Wheat made this Year, would, if it could be sold, bring this Colony alone half a Million Sterling, a Sum however large, yet may be depended on. I have forseen for several Months past so small a Prospect of an Accomodation between the two Countries that I determind to apply principally to the Cultivation of Tobo for the present Crop, persuaded, that, that alone will wait for a Market, & not be liable to Destruction – How very promising, as indeed do most of the Fruits of the Earth here, wh under the Annihilation of our Trade doubly co[torn]ding; however as the present Measures seem pretty generally approved, an Acquiescence with, & a Submission to them seem absolutely requisite – I

heartily wish they may procure Harmony, but Appearances are, I think, directly the contrary. I have for some Months been so bewilder'd in my political Conjectures, that I know not what to suppose – . . . There prevailed such a general Confusion just before the Arrival of Outram, with respects to the Exports being immediately stopped, that I thought it prudent to get my Tobo on board any Vessel I could meet with. Our publick Affairs are so far from being carried on with Certainty in these Times of Anarchy, that the wisest Heads amongst us know not in what Train Things are to remain for even a Month at a Time, & therefore *Prudence* must be our only *Guide*. . . .

The absolute Certainty there appears of our Trade being discontinued for one year more, at least, will inable the Importers to demand any Price they may think proper for any they may have on Hand by the ensuing Autumn – From yr known Attention to the Article I flatter myself the Sales will be astonishingly high, wh may in some small Degree compensate for a temporary stagnation of it.

[July, 1775] ²

1. Robert Beverly Letter Book, LC.

2. The above letter is undated, but from its position in the letter book, it was written prior to July 6, and from Beverly referring to his previous letter as June 4th rather than the “4th instant”, it can be assumed that the date was in early July.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, JULY 1, 1775

Williamsburg, July 1.

We hear from York, that [John Murray] Lord Dunmore, in the *Fowey*, and his Lady and family, on board the *Magdalen*, sailed from that place last Thursday morning [June 29]. It is said the *Magdalen* will proceed to England, and that the *Fowey* is to return to York town with the Governor, after having convoyed the schooner as far as the capes.

LORD WILLIAM CAMPBELL, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO GENERAL
THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir Charles Town 1st July 1775

I have the honour to acquaint Your Excellency of my Arrival here in His Majys Ship the *Scorpion* the 17th of last Month. As I have Orders to dispatch that Ship for Boston to join Admiral [Samuel] Graves, I could not neglect so favorable an Opportunity of conveying my Compts & best Wishes to your Excellency, & imagining that Sir James Wright, & Governor [Josiah] Martin would be desirous of embracing so safe an Occasion of transmitting their letters, I wrote to both; Sir James's Answer I expect every hour, & I have desired Mr [John] Tollemache who commands the *Scorpion*, to call at Cape Fear for Governor Martin's Dispatches.

It was with equal Surprize, & concern, I found the People of this Province did not yeild to any of their Northern Brethern in the violence of their measures, & contempt of all Legal Authority. The Provincial Congress had been sitting above a Fortnight before my Arrival, & had come to several Resolutions of a very daring, & dangerous nature. They fabricated an Association absolutely treason-

able, which has been signed by every one in the Province, the Kings officers, & a very few others excepted; tho I am convinced it was much against the inclination of great Numbers, who were obliged to comply, or expose their persons, & properties to all the fury of a desperate, and vindictive Mob. – The Congress has also order'd a Body of Troops consisting of two Regts of foot of 500 men each, & a Regt of Horse of 300, to be immediately raised. One hundred & fifty Thousand pounds Sterling will it is thought, be necessary to carry this wise Scheme into execution, including Subsistence &c for a year: paper money is to be issued by the Authority of the Congress to any Amount, so that the ruin of this late flourishing Province seems at no great distance. A few days before my Arrival they chose a Committee of 17 which is called the Council of Safety, to whom they have delegated the most unlimited powers, & who in fact have taken the whole Government of the Province into their hands. – On the 22d they adjourned, after presenting me one of the most extraordinary Addresses that ever was offer'd to a Kings Governor, & a new Congress is to be chosen in August. – In this state have I found the Province of S. Carolina, & Your Excellency can hardly conceive a more distress'd, & or embarras'd situation than the one I am at present in. The Lieut Governor instead of giving his Assistance on this Emergency, has fairly abandon'd Government, not having once appeared since my Arrival, but remains at his Country House an unconcerned Spectator of the Distractions that at present prevail in his unhappy Country. All these disagreeable circumstances are greatly increased by the difficulty, if not absolute impossibility of carrying on any correspondence by Land with Your Excellency, & the Admiral, to whom alone we can at present look for Protection, or Support, as well as for Authentick Information of what passes to the Northward. In our present forlorn situation it will be of the last consequence to His Majys Service to have a constant, & regular intercourse kept up between Your Excellency & the Southern Provinces, & very full as well as early accounts transmitted to the Governors, of every event of any moment that may happen in the Massachusetz; this can only be done by Sea, I therefore have requested both Sir James Wright, & Governor Martin to join in my application to Admiral Graves, & I flatter myself we shall have your Concurrence. – As we have reason to think the Admiral as well as Your Excellency is by this time strongly reinforced from England, we may hope this part of the Continent will at last be thought of. Two Regts in this Town, & a couple of Frigates in the harbour, would certainly have prevented much mischief both here, & in Georgia: I fear it is now too late for a small body of troops to be of much service could they even be spared, but at all events the Frigates with some small vessels to scour the Coast would be of the [greatest] use; they would check Smuggling, which is now carri[e]d on to a great extent in the most barefaced manner, as I am informed, & at the same time the appearance of a force would give some countenance to the friends of Government, who really look upon themselves as absolutely abandon'd Did the Fate of this part of His Majys Dominions entirely depend upon my employing a Advice Boat, I assure your Excellency I do not beleive I could possibly procure one in Charles Town Harbour, so absolutely are we under the command of Councils, & Committees. –

Lady William joins me in best Compts to Your Excellency & Mrs Gage. I have the Honor to be with the most profound Regard, & Esteem, Sir, [&c.]

William Campbell

N. B. Mr [John] Stuart the Superintendent for the Southern District, having fallen under the displeasure of our present Governors by his attention to Your Excellency's directions with regard to the Indians in their Allegiance, has been obliged to quit Georgia & take refuge in [St.] Augustine. —

I beg to recommend to the Care of your Excellency a Packet for Lord Dartmouth. —

I was just going to Seal up this when I recd a message from Mrs Stuart wife to the Superintendent that a Mr W. Henry Drayton from the Committee & Council of Safety had obliged her to give up some dispatches of a public Nature She had recd since the Departure of her husband to such a height are we arriv'd here, & to crown the whole they have Seized 26 Packets directed on His Majys Service that had come by the Packet Boat just arrived for Lt Govr Ball Sir Jas Wright Govr Martin & Lt Govr Moultrie.

W C

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

No. 19.

My Lord; The 21. June. His Majestys Schooner *Saint John* arrived here, last from Savannah: Mr. Stuart, the Superintendent of Indian affairs, came in her. He was under the necessity, to take refuge here, from some intelligence he had, that mischief was designed him, by the Rebels in Carolina: He narrowly escaped, my Lord, their fury, and would have passed a very bad time, by all accounts, had he fallen into their hands.

The day before, Mr. Shamier, Controler of the Port at Boston, came here, from an Assylum, in a Merchant Vessel, likewise from Charlestown, but last from Savannah.

The reports from Carolina, my Lord, are filled with every excess of outrage, and sedition. Things I fear will grow, from worse to worse, untill the wicked tumultuous spirit, gets a check, by a proper application of force; then, it amounts almost to a certainty, if one may be allowed, to draw features, of similar resemblance, that, from the petulant characteristic of this people, they will sink as low, and be as proportionally abject, as they have been upstart and insolent

I had a letter by the Schooner from Sir James Wright, that, things are taking a wrong turn in Georgia: but, my Lord, I am well informed, there is a strong party in favour of the constitution, with Sr James Wright which makes me hope, they will form an active force sufficient to keep down the factious, and save the province:

Sir James Wright desired a supply of a thousand pounds weight of Gunpowder. As the Ordnance Stores, your Lordship is pleased to mention in your favour of the 1st Febry No. 7. which His Majesty, had been pleased to command, to be sent to this place, were not come, we have only eight hundred weight of Corn powder, after fixing a small number of Mortar Shells, Howitzer Shells, hand-granades, and some round shot for the Cannon: I could not in prudence spare, any powder from this Province in our present situation. I assured Sr James when the stores arrived, if he then required assistance, all that was possible, and fit to be done, for His Majesty's service, he might rely upon from me; that the Merchants here expected a large provision of powder, any quantity of it, I would purchase for him.

When His Majesty's Schooner, whose station is on the Eastern Coast of this province, and the Island of Providence; left Savannah, Lieutenant William Grant, the Commander, told me, he had seen, "and had spoke to some of them" several Carolinians in arms, who had passed over to Savannah, to support such, as were factious and deluded among the people there. He shew'd me a note he had received from Sir James Wright, desiring to see him before he sailed, or that, he would return soon again to Savannah. I expressed some surprise, that he did not communicate with Sir James, before he come away; he said it was also imagined, the Carolinians were in quest of Mr. Stuart, the Superintendent, who was on board of him, that he apprehend they would attempt to burn the Ship; I told him, such enterprise, was not so easily done, that he would always have time enough, to discover such danger; that I did not know, of what moment it might be, to His Majesty's Service, his seeing Sir James Wright, that I had a dispatch for Sir James which was of a secret nature, and desired he would take it, and deliver it to him with his own hand. I cautioned him, to be observing and circumspect, as he proceeded, to procure all the intelligence, he could, but not to be too soon alarmed. He sailed from hence the 28. June, with my answer about the powder, which I was apprehensive, would be opened, if sent any other way.

I do not now write, my Lord, from certain intelligence, but, common fame has blown it about, that the Carolina people intend to visit this province. I am therefore, preparing to put every thing in the best state of defence. I shall, my Lord, order the Engineers directly, to lay down the roads and paths, between this Place, and Georgia, with the passes through the Swamps, and defilees, as we have no map of the Province, and, the posts fit to be taken, that, I may make their advancing into the Country, as difficult as possible; I shall take proper care of the Fort, and do all that is possible, to make them repent of their excursion, in case it takes place, which indeed I hardly think possible, for, they will surely have enough, for the present, to engage their attentions at Home. . . .

St Augustine 1st July. 75

Pat. Tonyn

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/555, LC Transcript.



Map of the Atlantic coastline from Charleston, South Carolina, to St. Augustine, Florida, 1770, with an inset chart of Charleston Harbor, 1775.

2 July (Sunday)

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Sabbath Day, July 2, 1775

The Report of the Committee for securing the Lamps of the Light-Houses, was read and accepted, and is as follows, viz:

The Committee appointed to consider the expediency of removing and securing the Lamps, with the Oil, &c. from the several Light Houses within this Colony, have attended that service, and beg leave to report as follows, viz: That it be recommended to the Committee of Correspondence or Selectmen of the Town of Chelsea, to remove and secure (if practicable) the Lamps and Oil from the Light-House at the entrance of Boston Harbour, with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging; also, that it be recommended to the Committee of Safety of the Town of Gloucester, that the same measures be taken with respect to the Light-Houses on Thatcher's Island, so called; and that the keeper of said Lights, with several Boats, Cattle, &c. be also removed from thence. Furthermore that it be recommended to the Committee of Correspondence for the Town of Plymouth, to remove and secure the Lamps, Oil, &c., from the Light-House on the Gurnet, so called, with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging; and that the keepers of the several Light-Houses as above specified, be discharged from the service of this Colony, till the further order of this or some future Congress or House of Representatives.

Ordered, That three copies of the last mentioned Report be sent to the places in said Report mentioned; and that the Committee who drew the Report forward the Copies.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1474, 1475, from Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy.)

Boston 2d July 1775.

Sir./ The Committee of the Council, who have been upon the business of the Fishery have not as yet been Able to go thro it, And as it is Necessary the boats-should be sent out, I am to beg you will give Orders that such may be suffered to-pass for Immediate use, with their Old passes, as shall have them certified by the Committee, who are Messrs Irvins, Hatch, and Thomas,

I am with Regard, and Esteem Sir, [&c.]

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GUARANTEE OF WAGES TO CAPTAIN ABRAHAM WHIPPLE ¹

We whose names are hereunto Subscribed being Members of the General Assembly & others do Promise that Capt Abraham Whipples Wages Shall be made up to Nine pounds Lawfull Money P Month on Condition that Said Whipple do go in the Vessell fitted by the Colony Called the *Catey* as Witness our Hands this 2d day of July 1775

Nich^o Cooke

Ambrose Page

John Jenckes

John Smith

Dan Tillinghast Committee Safety

John Brown

1. Private collection of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm C. Drake, Middleboro, Mass.

MASTER'S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Mercury*¹

July 1775 Rem[ark]s &c on Bd His Majts Ship *Mercury*
 Sunday 2d A M fired a 9 poundr, the *Savill* Transport from Cork with part 45
 Regt. Anchored here his Majts Sloop *Nautilus*

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1866.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS¹

[Extract]

[Charleston, S.C.] 2. July. 1775.

the opportunity by which this is to be Sent is offered to me very Suddenly & unexpectedly by Capt [Alexander] Innes² who assures me that my Letters Shall pass unopened – I thank him for his politeness & friendship, but the Kings Decypherer must be very cunning if he is able to pick a plot out of any of my Epistles . . .

Some time ago we dreaded from the vast falls of Rain the total Loss of our Crops of Rice & indeed a few are totally lost, but in general from a favorable change they are now good & if no disaster happens in Earing or Harvest will be as large as usual, the Indian Corn is Still better, Wheat abundant, & Indigo very well, but what of all this, in a port Locked up & the Key in Lord North's pocket – I never Saw Charles Town Harbour So naked as it is just now, only two Topsail Vessels in it except about five days ago when there was but one . . . You apprehend a bloody event to our disputes, there is now room to dread it more than ever, but I do not retreat as danger approaches, I only pray that God will enable me in every trial to do my Duty – all will be well again my Son – the people in England I mean the Ruling people are wrong – they will be convinced of it ere long – our Constitution admits of putting Such Rulers aside & restoring harmony without hurting that Constitution . . .

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–75, SCHS. Young Laurens was completing his education in England.

2. Private Secretary to Lord William Campbell.

3 July

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, JULY 3, 1775

Watertown, July 3.

Capt. Tileston arrived at Newbury last Wednesday [June 28], in 21 Days from Newfoundland, and informs us, that a greater Number of Vessels had arrived from Europe for the Fishery than usual, as the Colonies were not permitted to Fish on the Banks there; but finding they could not procure Flour, &c. several Vessels returned home before Capt. Tileston sailed and many more were soon to follow, (their Voyage being broken up) in Order, it's presumed, to settle the *Fare* with my *Lord North*.

NARRATIVE OF BENJAMIN HALLOWELL¹

[Boston, July 3, 1775]

A conversation which pass'd at Boston between Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves and Mr. [Benjamin] Hallowell a Commissioner of the Customs, on the subject of Mr. Hallowell's application to the Admiral in his department. –

Related by Mr. Hallowell who (for the purpose of getting a supply of Hay) hired Gallop's – Island, which makes part of Nantasket-road, and near where one of the King's Ships is stationed. –

Being desirous that no part of my conduct in getting the hay from said island should be disagreeable to Admiral Graves, I did on the 3d. of July wait on him and acquainted him with what I proposed doing. – on which the Admiral asked me, Who was the proprietor of the island and who I had hired it of? and was inform'd as to those particulars. The Admiral evaded giving me a direct answer as to the mens going, or the hay being brought from said island, but recomended to me cutting hay on Noddle's-island – Grape-island or Thompson's-island.—alleging that he (the Admiral) propos'd to cut the hay on the islands about and near Nantasket-road, and that he had already occupied Lovell's-island, to which I replied, that Noddles island was imediately under the guns of the Flag and other Ships of the King's, and cou'd be protected, and therefore more convenient for the Admiral to cut his hay there, and that an experiment had already been tried to take the hay from Grape-island, but in vain altho' a King's ship & Troops were employed to protect the men on that business – and that the house and barn as well as the hay on Thompson's-island the property of the Rev'd Mr Walter, were burnt – but if he (the Admiral) had an inclination to cut the grass and make the hay on that island, he could send a sufficient guard, which was not in my power to do, and I was sure Mr Walter wou'd be much obliged to the Admiral if he woud direct that the hay on his island shou'd be cut; I also observed to the Admiral the impropriety of leaving my own property, & in getting of which there was no risque and seizing without any color of right on what belong'd to others, the doing of which must also be attended with danger from the Rebels. – Upon which the Admiral told me that he cou'd not give an answer without consulting the General. – I suppos'd it was necessary – and desired to know when I shou'd have an answer, – and was told – on Wednesday next. – I wish it sooner, because my grass wou'd greatly suffer if not imediately cut, and so express'd myself to the Admiral, to which he reply'd,—No – No – It will be the better for standing a little longer – and that the day after tomorrow – will be time enough for an answer.

1. Gage Papers, CL. A copy is in the Clinton Papers, CL.

WALTER SPOONER TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

May it Please Your Honour.

Springfield 3d July 1775

When the Congress of the Colony of the Massachusetts-Bay, were informed that your Government had sent Colonel [Benjamin] Hinman to lake Champlain, with a Thousand Men to defend the important Posts there; it was with the deepest concern that they saw he was not commander in Chief of those Fortresses & their appendages and immediately dispatched a Committee whereof I have the honour to be Chairman to let the Commander of their Forces know, that it was the Expectation of our Congress that the Commander in Chief of the Conecticut Forces should be over our Officers and privates. The Committee was also ordered respectfully to Signify to your Honour their opinion of the Necessity of holding those Fortresses as also of the Most Expedient method to do it.

Whereupon they proceeded, and at Crown point Let Colonel [Benedict] Arnold know, that it was Expected he Should give up the Command of the Garisons &c to Colonel Hinman, and be under him as his Chief Officer there, but he declined it and declared that he would not be Second to any man, disbanded his Forces and resigned his Commission. A majority of his men engaged anew under Colonel James Easton, who the Committee appointed under the Commander of the Forces of your Government on the Lakes, and to be regulated by your Martial Law and the Committee Left the Garisons and appendages in peace, with much Satisfaction commanded by Colonel Hinman who they are confident is fully equal to the appointment

The Committee also order me to inform your Honour, that it is their opinion, that the abandoning the posts on Lake Champlain would probably prove the utter ruin of the New England governments and that they apprehend Armed Vessels Floating Batteries &c will be the surest means of Commanding the Lakes – the Committee would write your Honour more fully on this Subject, but they are convinced from the Letters you have favoured our Congress with that you are fully possessed of the importance of holding those Fortreses.

Justice compels the Committee to let your Honour know, that on Colonel Arnolds refusing to serve under Colonel Hinman a mutiny arose amongst some of Arnolds men who would not Engage anew in our Service, which seemed to be attended with dangerous Symtoms, but by the Noble Exertions of the Officers of Your Government, with those of Judge [William] Duer of Charlotte County in the Colony of New York, & the ample Support by them rendered to the Committee in the most difficult Situation, it was happily quelled: the particulars of it are too tedious and disagreeable for your Honours attention while you have constantly business of the last importance before you.

but this much the Committee order me to take Leave to say that from the polite, generous, and manly disposition of Colonel Hinman and the Officers in the Conecticut Forces under him, we may gather the Most happy prospects of a Campaign at the Northward, replete with Honour and Interest to the Colonies –

I am in behalf of the Committee your Honrs [&c.]

Walter Spooner

1. Trumbull Papers, Conn SL.

JOHN JENCKES TO ESEK HOPKINS, SURINAM ¹

Sir/

Providence July 3d 1775

If there is any Powder to be Bought at Surrinam, you are Directed to Purchase, on my Acco Three Thousand Guildors worth, & Ship the same on Board Capt Silvanus Jenckes (if you have Effects to that amount of mine in your Hands,) who is Directed to Mr John Brown, to take it on Board at the rate of one Dollar p Hundred freight.

Your Humle Sert

John Jenckes

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

New York Gazette, MONDAY, JULY 3, 1775

New York, July 3.

Since our last, nine Transports with Troops, of the second Embarkation from Cork, have arrived at Sandy Hook, and agreeable to Orders there received, sailed last Friday [June 30] for Boston, under convoy of his Majesty's Ship of War *Nautilus*, Capt. [John] Collins.

The Regiments on board the Transports are the 22d, 40th, 44th, and 45th.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW YORK, JULY 3D, 1775"¹

Another of the Transports is arrived at the Hook, which is nearly all that was expected. The Pilot tells me that there is a general dissatisfaction among the troops, who thought they were to lay here in peace. One of the ships made Long-Island, sent a boat, a Subaltern, two privates and two seamen on shore, to know where they were, but they did not think proper to return to the ship.

1. *Pennsylvania Journal*, July 5, 1775.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT OF THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

Sir,

New York July 3d 1775

Your letter of saturday last with the resolution of Congress of the same day, and copy of the military Arrangement Inclosed was delivered to me at five this Morning.

Permitt me, Sir, to Observe that the resolution seems to be founded on a supposition that the Inhabitants in the Neighborhood of Ti[c]onderoga are a people distinct from those called Green-Mountain Boys, and that they are numerous, whereas the Fact is that most of the Inhabitants in the northeastern part of the County of Albany and In the County of Charlotte, and who reside on what are commonly called the New Hampshire Grants are distinguished by the appellation of Green mountain boys, and altho they are settled in an Extent of Country upwards of one hundred & thirty miles in length, from nearly as far south as Albany to fourty or fifty miles north of Crown point, Yet so lately has that Country began to be settle that It will be difficult (as Colo [Ethan] Allen observes) to raise five hundred men in It, altho there are more Inhabitants but necessarily occupied in procuring Subsistence for their Families – Such of them as assisted in the reduction of Ti[c]onderoga and afterwards Garrisoned It, are Already returned to their Respective habitations – Hence Sir you will perceive that the troops in that Quarter cannot be reinforced at any rate by more than five hundred men to be procured there, and those still to be levyed.

From what Information I have been able to procure I Suppose that the force under Colo: [Benjamin] Hinman's command does not exceed thirteen hundred men Including those that occupy Fort George, the landing at the north end of Lake George, and the post at the saw mills, and such as are necessarily employed

in transporting provisions &c from Albany, which will probably reduce them to Eleven hundred and under, and if of those I leave two hundred to Garrison crown point and Ti[c]onderoga, the remainder will then Exceed General [Guy] Charlton's regular troops by about three hundred men only; a force very Inadequate barely to Attempt destroying his floating batteries, boats & vessels without hazard-ing the loss not only of the command of the lakes but of the Fortresses in our possession on Its Banks. – These Observations I have taken the liberty to make that Congress by being now truly possessed of facts may make a probable guess of the Consequences that will follow an Attempt which I concieve myself not at liberty to desist from makeing without orders to the Contrary, – I shall leave this to day and order Brigadier [Richard] Montgomery to follow me assoon as possible.

Preparations are makeing here to fortify the pass in the Highlands I had proposed that part of General [David] Woosters Corps should have gone on that Service. If Congress Intends that any of them shall be employed in that way, they will please to signify It, as they cannot otherwise, since the last order he moved from New York. I am Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

1. Papers CC, 153: I, 15, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, July 3, 1775

Sundry letters from the Convention of New York, Genl [Philip] Schuyler and a certified copy of a letter from Thos Gage to Govr [Josiah] Martin, were laid before the Congress, and read

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 124.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 3d., 1775

Resolved, That Messrs Robert Morris, Robert White, & Thomas Wharton, Jun., do, with the utmost Expedition, procure any quantity of Powder and Salt-Petre in their power.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 282.

MASTER'S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Mercury* ¹

July 1775

Rem[ark]s on Bd His Majts. Ship *Mercury*

Monday 3d

A M Came Down and Saild hence his Majts Sloop *Kings Fisher*, Berthed the Ships Comp[an]y – Modt and fair W[eathe]r
P M Saild hence two Sail of Transports for Boston and his Majts Sloop *Nautillus* ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1866.
2. Having completed her mission, that of diverting the New York-bound transports to Boston, the *Mercury* sailed on the morning of July 5, 1775, for Virginia.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of The Committee 3 July 1775

A Letter from Henry Lloyd Agent for the Contractors for Supplying the Troops at Boston, to Doctr. John Stevenson being fallen into the Hands of the Committee was Read and is as follows.

Sir

Boston 17 May 1775

The Stoppage of Provisions from the Southern Governments for the use of his Majesties Troops makes it necessary to endeavor to get a Supply by Concealing from the Publick &c. the destination of Provisions shipped for that purpose. I shall therefore propose for your Consideration the following method of doing it. – Cannot a Vessell be Freightd with Flour for the West Indies, commanded by a Person you can Confide in, who will execute your Orders to him to come into this Port and deliver her Cargo here instead of going to the West Indies. You may take up a Vessell as large as 200 Tons and give her a full Freight. I shoud send you Bills on the Contractors to execute this plan, or advise you to draw on them for the Amount of what you may ship to me in this way, but the Negotiation of such Bills might discover your Plan and defeat it, so that I should be glad you would advise me of some Friend of yours, and when I am made acquainted with his Name, and that Sum you shall draw for, will send to him from hence my Bills on the Contractors for the Amount you advise me of; you will plan likewise to give the Contractors timely Notice, that they may insure their Interest if they think proper, and inform me of the Name of the Vessel and Master you engage, that I may lodge a Permit at the Lighthouse in this Harbour, for Admission to come up to the Town, and discharge her Cargo here – Pray let the Flour you purchase be such as will keep the Summer, and let the Casks be good, well hooped, and the Heads well secured with Lining Hoops – You will be careful to write me by a safe Conveyance, that your Letter may not fall into the Hands of the Provincials.

I am Sir your most hume Servt

Dr. Jno Stevenson

Henry Lloyd

The Committee sent for Dr. Stevenson, and having shewn him the Letter he made the following Declaration –

I believe the within Letter to be Mr. Henry Lloyd's Writing, and I declare, that I have never received any Copy of it, or any other Letter to that Purport, and I further declare, that if the Letter had come to my hands, I would not have executed the Order, nor will I execute any Order of the kind from any Person whatever, contrary to the Resolves of the Continental Congress, or Provincial Convention –

Jno. Stevenson.

On Motion *Resolved*, That Henry Lloyd of Boston has knowingly and willfully violated the Association of the American Congress, by endeavoring to supply the Enemies of this Country with Provisions, and that, agreeable to the Resolu-

tions of the said Congress, it is the Duty of Us and all our Constituents from henceforth not to have any Commercial Intercourse with him, and it is recommended, that an inviolable Regard be paid to this Resolution.

The Committee have receiving information, that the ship *Johnson* from Liverpool with a Cargo of Salt and dry Goods arrived a few days ago in Wye River, and that several other Ships with similar Cargoes may daily be expected from Liverpool in this Bay; It is therefore Unanimously *Resolved*, that if any Pilot, Craftsman, or others, shall be found Assisting in the Conveyance or Introduction of any Goods or Merchandize, contrary to the direction of the Congress, or in receiving on shore, or unloading from any Vessel any Goods, which may have been ordered out of the Port, such Persons shall be deemed Enemies to the Liberties of America, and will be held forth to the Resentment of the Public: And if any Person privy to such Measures will disclose them, they shall receive the Thanks of the Committee as Real Friends to their country.

The Committee directed the foregoing Resolution to be Published in Hand Bills and that one of Said Hand Bills be delivered to the several Pilots attending this Port.

Messrs. Isaac VanBebber, Isaac Griest, Saml. Davy, Thos. Elliot, George Wooley, Benjamin Levy, David Stewart & Willm. Neil or any two or more of them are appointed a Committee to apply to every Vessel arriving within this Port and to Secure any Gunpowder they may have on board.

1. Balt. Com., LC.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 Going out of York River [Virginia]

Monday 3 [P M] Sent a Midshipman and two Men on board the *Liberty* Sloop

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *Saint John*, LIEUT. WILLIAM GRANT, COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 Anchord outside Cockspur Road within the Barr

Monday 3 At 9 (A M) a Number of boats passing Armed from Carolina to Tybees At 10 Saw a Ship in the offing Supposed to be a Ship called the *Magna Charta* with powder which the Liberty people as they stile themselves intended to Seize Made a Signal for a pilot – At 11 Weighed and came to sail – Stood over the Barr out to Sea – At Noon Light house W b S 4 miles
At 2 (P M) came up and spoke with the above ship Boarded and Rummaged her. found her to be from barbadoes in ballast – Tack'd and Stood in – Got in the boats – At 7 Anchord within the Barr . . .

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.



An Exact Prospect of CHARLESTOWN the Metropolis of the Province of SOUTH CAROLINA



(Top) Yorktown, Virginia, c. 1754. (Middle) Charleston, South Carolina, 1761.
(Bottom) Spencer Hall Shipyard, Gray's Inn Creek, Maryland, c. 1760.

4 July

NARRATIVE OF BENJAMIN HALLOWELL ¹

[Boston, July 4, 1775]

I (not seeing the necessity of so long a delay) [in cutting the hay on Gallup's Island] found an opportunity and the next day (being Tuesday) mentioned the affair to the General who had not the least objection to my making the hay and removing it to Boston, I thereupon immediately waited on the Admiral and related what the General had say'd – Yes – Yes – says the Admiral—“I supposd that he wou'd give you leave. – I had no doubt of that. – Pray whose island did you say it was?” I answerd the original proprietor I believ'd was Judge Lynde formerly Chief-Justice of this province – but Mr Walter had the direction of it. – On which the Admiral replied – I suppose this Judge (as you call him) is a Rebel. I assured him he was not, but retired from his Office solely on account of his health & advand age.

The Admiral then say'd “Pray Sir how many acres does the island contain?” I replied – I cou'd not tell exactly. I had hired it be it more or less. – I then added, That I had told the General, and wou'd now repeat it to him, that if the King's service required it, not only the hay but my horses and the cow that were to be fed on the hay, & myself, were ready and at his service on the shortest notice. To which the Admiral in a high tone replied – “Don't tell me of the King's service, I want the hay for my own use. Do You Know Sir—that I have five horses and three cows and must have hay?” I answered “I was very sorry it was out of my power to oblige the Admiral.—It will be impossible for me to part with any of the produce of that island for I have not the least prospect of getting a stock of hay any where else[']” – The Admiral then sayd “Sir Why do not you go to those islands which I have before mentioned to you.”—I replied “that I had already assigned sufficient reasons against attempting the plan.”—This occasioned the Admiral saying “Sir, I must have some of the hay.” I replied—“I am exceeding sorry that it is out of my power to oblige the Admiral, there is not sufficient for my own consumption.”—Notwithstanding which the Admiral say'd—“Sir I must have half the hay.” On which I told him “it was impossible. – there not being sufficient for my own use.” The Admiral then say'd he wou'd make me an offer “That if I woud let him have half the hay he wou'd be at half the expence to cut and make it.” This I declin'd telling him “That the expence was no consideration with me.”—Then! Sir, says the Admiral “if I can't have half the hay you shall not bring it off the island.”—I told him I wou'd cut the grass and make the hay and it wou'd be my misfortune if I cou'd not get it up to town. Well Sir sayd he “You shall not have it except I have half.” – I then reply'd “I did not come to make a bargain, neither did I expect any altercation on this business but came there as a gentleman meaning to conform to any orders he might have given on the water.” Then the Admiral sayd “Sir Do not I treat you like a gentleman?”—Finding that I cou'd not get the satisfaction I had a right to expect I left the room –

1. Gage Papers, CL.

WILLIAM TRYON, GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

New York 4th July 1775

I arrived in the Governmt the 25th of last month with apparent satisfaction to the Inhabitants of this city, and received the next morning the Great Seal of the Province and the diminished authority the Lieutenant Governor had to transfer to me.

The General Revolt that has taken place in the Colonies has put his Majestys civil Governors in the most degraded situation, left in the exercise of only such feeble executive Powers as suit the present conveniences of the Country, and thus dependent on the caprice of a moment.

1. O'Callaghan, ed., *Colonial New York*, VII, 589, 590.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 4th, 1775

Resolved, That the Committee go to Red Bank tomorrow, to take a view of the River and Islands, and that the following Gent'n be requested to attend, viz't:

Luke Morris,

Oswell Eve,

John Wharton,

Thomas Penrose,

Major Nicholas,²

Thomas Hanson,

Peter Reeve. —

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 282, 283.

2. Colonel Lewis Nicola.

THOMAS JEFFERSON TO FRANCIS EPPES ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia, July 4th, 1775

The New Englanders are fitting out light vessels of war, by which it is hoped we shall not only clear the seas and bays here of everything below the size of a ship of war, but that they will visit the coasts of Europe and distress the British trade in every part of the world. The adventurous genius and intrepidity of those people is amazing.²

1. Boyd, ed., *Jefferson Papers*, I, 184, 185.

2. Using almost the same words, Jefferson wrote to George Gilmer, on July 5, 1775. *Ibid.*, I, 185, 186.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Scorpion*, JOHN TOLLEMACHE,
COMMANDING ¹

At Single Anchor off Charles Town Bar
Tuesdy 4 July 1775

at 3 AM Un'moor'd and hove Short on the Bt Bower at 6 Weigh'd and came to Sail 1/2 past 9 came too off Charles Town Bar. in 1/2 less 7 fathm Charles Town Light house W B N 4 or 5 Miles.

Fresh Breeze, and hazey at 7 PM Weigh'd and came to Sail, kept Sounding ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

2. "This Day the *Scorpion* Man of War sailed for Cape-Fear." *South Carolina Gazette*, July 4, 1775.

WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON TO WILLIAM DRAYTON ¹

(Copy)

My Dear Sir – Your two last Letters, May the 18 & 30th came safe to hand, and I have been waiting with impatience, for a proper opportunity, by which I might answer them –

As for Doran, it was impossible for me to say one word to save him from being declared a Public enemy. Nay, in an official way, I sent notice of it to Georgia, as they had transmitted us a Resolution, that Georgia “shall not be a place of Refuge for any Person whose Public conduct has rendered them obnoxious to the censure of any part of the united Continent.” Doran altho’ ordered to unload; by my special permission departed with his Cargo, in the most solemn manner promising to sell it at the Northward. My permission is held justifiable – but he imposed upon me in a Public character, & acted contrary to express orders. – It gives me much concern that my being personally engaged in the affair, & his conduct, with which I see you was not fully acquainted, deprived me of the Ability of saying one word to make him sensible of the weight of your intercession.

Peace, Peace, is now, not even in Idea. A civil War, in my opinion, is absolutely unavoidable. – We already have an Army & a treasury with a Million of Money: In short a new Government is in effect erected. The Congress is the Legislature – the Council of Safety, the executive power – the General Committee, as Westminster Hall – and the District & Parochial Committees as County Courts. – See the effects of oppression!

The proceedings of the General Congress do not transpire. But, depend upon two pieces of information. – They are proceeding upon a stupendous Subject – and there will be a *Continental Army*. – Affairs are now hurrying to extremity – where they will stop I know not. – We are under some apprehensions of troops coming here. If they arrive – bloodshed will be the consequence. – This Afternoon, I go up to Dorchester to reconnoitre the situation, in order to make a fortified Post there. You know the Situation, – it is almost surrounded by the River.

[William] Knox ² writes thus, May 1st “The Generals and Troops are all sailed, & the most effectual Orders given to *put an end* to the Rebellion.”

Lord Dartmouth writes thus, the Resolution of the Commons, on the 20 of Feb. was carried by a Majority of 274 to 88, “and indeed the great majorities which have appeared in both Houses upon every question, that has been proposed for maintaining the Supremacy of Parliament, is such an evidence of the general sense of the Nation upon that Subject, as must show how little ground there has been for those assurances which have been artfully held out to the Americans of support here in the dangerous conduct they have adopted & convince them that there neither can nor will be any the least relaxation from those measures which that conduct has made indispensably necessary for reducing the Colonies to a state of due obedience to the constitutional Authority of Parliament.”

In another Letter his Lordship says, prescribing in what mode propositions in compliance with the Resolution of the Commons on the 20 of Feb. were to be made from America, "provided it be at the same time unaccompanied with any declarations and unmixed with any claims which will make it impossible for the King consistent with his own Dignity, or for Parliament consistent with their constitutional Rights to receive it."

And, now that I am upon the Subject of Government Dispatches, I inclose to you an *original* letter from Lord Dartmouth to your Governor, in which you are very particularly mentioned –

I also send you Copies of letters to John Stuart,³ who we find has taken shelter in your Town – I think they will make him quake, and they will show that we are serious – The Express is sent on purpose with the originals to Stuart. – I have directed the Express to be sure to receive any commands you may have for this place, and he will call upon [you] for that purpose –

I think in my last letter I mentioned a storm at D.H. it is now as fair Weather as ever –

When I tell you, that being a Member of the Congress, the General Committee the Council of Safety, the Secret Committee – and the Committee of Intelligence, which last acts as a Secretary of State, and that all Reports, Resolutions, Letters & other papers are penned by me in each of these Departments; you may readily conclude that my time is not spent idly. For these six weeks past I have not been able, even for one day, to go out of Town; and I am really almost jaded. For these reasons, for the news of the day, I beg leave to refer you to the prints I inclose, and particularly to our Circular letter – Our former circular, which I think I sent to you, has been reprinted generally in the Northern Colonies.

You remember my original situation with our Governor – was it not singular that upon his first arrival, I should be nominated to pronounce an Address to him, declaring that we had taken up Arms against his Authority? – However, I pronounced and presented the address with all possible respect and Politeness – and his Lordship attentively returned my bows as I proceeded in the business. In a few days after, I paid him my compliments upon his arrival – in two days he returned the visit. – I have not been able, or rather, it has not lain in [my] way till the other day to exchange even a word with Captain [Alexander] Innis.⁴ People in general seem averse to him – His carriage seems haughty, and from some late proceedings – he seems perfectly disposed to be *Viceroy over him*.

I most sincerely conclude myself Dr Sir [&c.]

W^m H^y Drayton

Charles Town July 4. 1775

[Endorsed] A true Copy Pat. Tonym⁵

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.

3. Indian agent for the Southern Colonies.

4. Lord William Campbell's principal advisor and aide.

5. The endorsement is that of the Royal Governor of East Florida, indicating that the above letter had fallen into enemy hands, instead of the addressee in Savannah.

5 July

GEORGE WASHINGTON IN ACCOUNT WITH THE UNITED STATES ¹

1775 To the Expence of myself & party reconnoitg the Sea Coast East of
 July 5 Boston Harbor [£]18.13.2

1. *Gen. George Washington's Account with the United States from 1775 to 1783*, facsimile (Brooklyn, 1833), 3.

ELBRIDGE GERRY, FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SUPPLIES, TO
 JOSEPH GARDOQUI AND SONS, BILBAO, SPAIN ¹

Gentlemen

Watertown July 5 1775

Our worthy Friend Colo Lee, by Desire of the Committee of Supplies for the Colony, wrote to You before his Decease for a Quantity of Ammunition & some Arms; & in Consequence of Your Letter to him,² We send You the *Rockingham* Capt Johnson with £1000 Sterg in Cash, & six Hundred & fifty pounds Bills of Exche on your House to be invested in good pistol & Cannon powder – half each. –

The War between G Britain & the Colonies is begun, & when it will end no Man can tell; a large Army of Our Forces are now entrenched within one Mile of Boston, two Battles have been already fought in which the ministerial Troops were well repulsed & the other Time were much worsted, & all America is in Arms; so that there is Reason to think the Article will be much in Demand –

The Ministry in Britain have been endeavouring to keep a Supply of powder from the Colonies, well knowing that they cannot enslave them by any other Means; but they must necessarily fail in their project unless all the powers in Europe are engaged in the same infamous plot, which We know cannot be the Case –

The Friendship of foreign Factors in this Matter cannot fail of making them respectable & securing to themselves the Interest of these Colonies; And We shall be glad of your utmost Exertions to dispatch this Vessel, & Information how fully You can supply Us with Military Stores of every kind in future

We suppose that no Ammunition can at present be procured in Spain, but doubtless It may be obtained from France Holland Denmark Sweden or some of the northern Kingdoms either by Land or Sea, in spanish Bottoms, notwithstanding some Objections at present appear to have taken place, against a direct Importation of the same by our own Vessels from some of those Kingdoms –

We place great Confidence in your Endeavours to cause this Interest to be invested as before mentioned & shall not only apply for all the military Stores which You think can be transmitted thro your negotiation, but also chearfully allow such a Compensation for your Services as You shall think reasonable being Gentlemen very respectfully [&c.]

Elbridge Gerry p Ord of the Massachusetts Committee of Supplies

1. *Mass. Arch.*, vol. 194, 57, 58.

2. Gardoqui's letter of February 15, 1775, from Bilbao.

MERCY WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Watertown July 5 1775

The sea coasts are kept in constant apprehension of being made miserable by the depredations of the once formidable navy of Britain now degraded to a level with the corsairs of Barbary

At the same time they are pirattically plundering the Isles, and pilfering the borders to feed the swarms of veteran slaves shut up in the town They will not suffer a poor fisherman to Cast his hook in the ocean to bring a little relief to the hungry inhabitants without the pittance of a dollar each to the use of Admiral [Samuel] Greaves.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 71, 72. Mercy Warren was the wife of James Warren, of Plymouth, Mass.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, July 5, 1775

Ordered, That part of the Resolve relative to the Light Houses, which impowered the Selectmen and Committees of Correspondence to remove and secure the Lamps and Oil from the Light-House at the entrance of Boston Harbour, be reconsidered, and that [Mr. Thomas Crane,] Captain [William] Homes, and Deacon [Ebenezer] Washburn, be a Committee to consider at large on some measures for removing and securing the Lamps & Oil aforesaid.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

Boston July 5th 1775

Since the Information I sent you on Sunday [July 2], in regard to the Endeavours of the Rebels to procure Powder, I have advice that within these few Days they have received 37 half Barrels which was brought from New Haven in Connecticut, where it was imported from St Eustatia; they have made Application to the Continental Congress to Assist them, and have likewise employed Persons at Cascoe Bay, where they hope to import Ammunition; I think it proper to give you this notice that measures may be taken to prevent their Schemes.

I am with great Regard and Esteem-Sir [&c.]

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir,

Boston 5th July 1775

I am greatly obliged to your Excellency for your Letter of this day's date, communicating to me Intelligence of the Rebels endeavours to procure Powder; I am happy to find they are in want of Ammunition. On this extensive Coast some Supplies will get in, but I hope in no great Quantities.

The *Scarborough* is at Portsmouth, The *Merlin* and *Hope* Schooner Cruize from Marblehead to Piscataqua. The *Senegal* shall cruize from Piscataqua to the Eastward, where I shall also soon send a stout armed Schooner; To the Southward of Cape Cod is the *Rose*, *Swan* and *Glasgow* and for a time the *Nautilus*; – I anxiously hope to hear that some of them are successful in seizing the Rebels Supplies, as their Captains are under the strictest Orders to be vigilant, and I omit no occasion of sending Them every information I can procure for their Guidance. I have the honor to be with great regard and Respect

Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM C. BURNABY, R.N.¹

In order to enable you more effectually to carry into Execution my Orders to you dated the 25th and 27th May and 17th of June, for seizing and sending to Boston all Vessels laden with Arms and Ammunition, Provisions, Grain, Flour, Salt, Melasses and Wood: You are hereby required and directed to cruize in his Majesty's Sloop [*Merlin*] under your Command between Cape Ann and Cape Cod, anchoring occasionally at Marblehead or Salem, and putting to Sea again as you shall think best for the Kings Service: And you are also at Liberty to extend your Cruize to the Isle of Shoals or Piscatagua River, but not to anchor at either place, unless constrained there to by bad weather or any unavoidable accident, but to return again and Examine the Bay of Salem and the Harbours therein, in order if possible to prevent every Kind of Supply getting to the Rebels by Sea. And whereas his Majesty's Schooner *Hope* is stationed within the Limits of your Command, for the same purpose of cutting off the Rebels Supplies You are to take Lieutt [George] Dawson under your Command and employ him and the said Schooner in the most effectual manner you can to answer the above purposes, the punctual Execution of these Orders being at this time of very great consequence to the Kings Service. And in respect to pressing from Vessels fishing to supply the Towns of Marblehead and Salem; You are hereby required and directed not to impress any of the said Fishermen so long as your Boats are allowed to land at the sd Towns to purchase and bring away such things as his Majesty's Service may require, but whenever that Intercourse shall be stopped on their parts or they shall act in an hostile manner towards any of the Squadron, You are then to seize not only their People but their Boats and send them to Boston, or otherwise dispose of them as upon your representing the circumstances I shall hereafter direct.

Given &c. 5 July 1775.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 134, 135, MassHS Transcript.

BURNET MILLER, CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTHAMPTON COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION, TO THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

Gentlemen –

Southampton, July 5, 1775.

The committee of East and Southampton, taking into their serious consideration the remote situation from Head-quarters at New-York, and much exposed to the ravages of our unnatural enemy at this day with regard to our stock in our common field at the point of Montauk; it being remote from the inhabitants, where any number may land, and at pleasure, take away our stock, which is large – (not less than two thousand neat cattle, and three or four thousand sheep) – which, if taken away, would greatly distress us and give them support which we would by no means do.

Now, considering our situation, we request your Hon. House to petition Gen [Philip] Schuyler that a number of troops be stationed at Montauk; and that the company now raising here may be a part, until a matter of more importance shall call them away. We are of the opinion that our inhabitants would do what in them lies, to give assistance in case any attempt should be made to take off the stock; but the distance of the inhabitants is 18 or 20 miles, and as Gardiner's island lies adjacent, and is much exposed, also Shelter Island, Plumb Island and Oysterpond point, we think a number of whale boats would be proper to employ, that assistance may be given from one part to the other. We have a number of boats that are no use in this season that might be got for the design, if the General should think proper to order Troops to this part of the island, which we humbly petition may be done, &c.

I am, Gentlemen [&c.]

By order of the Committee.

Burnet Miller, Chairman. –

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, II, 70.

IN PROVINCIAL CONGRESS, NEW-YORK, JULY 5, 1775 ¹

Resolved, That no vessel now in port, nor any that may hereafter arrive here, belonging to any port in Great Britain or Ireland, or the Islands of Jersey or Guernsey, which sends vessels to the Newfoundland fishery, be permitted to load any Bread or Flour, Beef or Pork, unless the property of those articles, be in some merchant or inhabitant of this colony and not intended for Newfoundland, until it shall be otherwise ordered by this, or the Continental Congress.

A true Copy from the Minutes, John M'Kesson, Secretary

1. *New York Journal*, July 6, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED OF NEW YORK ¹

At a meeting of the Committee, Wednesday, July 5, 1775

Resolved, That all Masters of Vessels arriving in this Port from Great Britain or Ireland, are hereby requested, as soon as they conveniently can, or within twenty-four hours after their arrival, to make application to the Chairman or

Deputy Chairman of this Committee, or to Mr. John Imlay, Chairman of the Committee of Inspection, and give proper satisfaction that there are not now, nor have been in his Vessel this present Voyage any Goods or Merchandise contrary to the General Association of the Continental Congress. And it is hereby recommended to all owners of Vessels, or those to whom they may be addressed, to inform their Masters of the above Resolve; and that no Master do presume to discharge or suffer anything to be taken out of his Vessel until such satisfaction has been given, and leave obtained from the Chairman or Deputy Chairman aforesaid.

And as attempts may be made to land Goods before the Vessels come into this Harbour, as well as out of those who may be ordered to depart this Port,

Resolved, That if any Pilot, Boatman, or others, shall be found assisting in the conveyance or introduction of Goods or Merchandise, contrary to the Association of the late Congress, or in receiving on shore, or unloading from any Vessel any Goods which may have been ordered out of the Port, such persons shall be deemed enemies to the liberties of America, and will be held forth to the resentment of the publick; and if any persons privy to such measures will disclose them, they shall receive the thanks of the Committee as real friends to their Country.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1574, 1575.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] *Die Mercurii*, 9 ho., A.M., July 5th, 1775.

John Van Cortlandt, Esqr. informed the Congress that the artillery company of the marine society, agreeable to the recommendation of this Congress, had nominated their officers to serve under Captain Anthony Rutgers, to wit: Christopher Miller, for their captain-Lieutenant, Patrick Dennis First Lieutenant, Anthony Griffiths Second Lieutenant, and William Ritchie, third Lieutenant, and request the approbation of this Congress in the said nomination.

The Congress are of opinion that those gentlemen will be proper officers, and do approve of and confirm the choice of the said company in their officers.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 66.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, July 5, 1775

It appearing that Govr Philip Skene and Mr. Lundy have designs inimical to American liberty, thereupon,

On motion, it is recommended to the delegates of the colony of Pennsylvania to have the order of Congress of the 27 June last, respecting the sending Govr Skene to Hartford in Connecticut, immediately carried into execution.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Mr. Lundy be sent under guard along with Govr Skene to Hartford, in Connecticut, there to be confined in the same manner as is ordered with respect to Govr Skene, until further orders from this Congress.

Resolved, That such provision be made for the support of Govr Skene and Mr. Lundy, as Govr Trumbull shall think proper, which the Continent will take care to pay.

Ordered, That the president write to Govr [Jonathan] Trumbull on this subject, and enclose him the above orders and resolves.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 126, 127.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ONE OF THE VIRGINIA DELEGATES TO A GENTLEMAN IN WILLIAMSBURGH, DATED PHILADELPHIA, JULY 5, 1775”¹

The New Englanders are fitting out privateers, with which they expect to be able to scour the seas and bays of every thing below ships-of-war, and may probably go to the European coasts to distress the British trade there.² The enterprising genius and intrepidity of these people are amazing. They are now intent on burning Boston, in order to oust the regulars; and none are more eager for it than those who have escaped out, and who have left their own property in it; so that their rage has got the better of every interested principle.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1573.

2. This unfounded report probably was based upon the fact that a resolution calling for armed vessels had been introduced in the Massachusetts Provincial Congress. It had not been approved.

HOLT'S *Virginia Gazette*, NORFOLK, WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 1775

Norfolk, July 5.

On Wednesday last [June 28] the ship *Johnson*, belonging to Mr. Gildart of Liverpool, and loaded by Messrs. Ashtons was spoke with at the Capes, by some persons employed by the light house company; she had come in the Sunday before and went up the bay, but hearing she would not be suffered to land any of her cargo, but might probably meet with a disagreeable reception, she had put about and was then following the *Magdalen* armed schooner out to sea; she appeared very deep in the water, and the Captain of her said there were great commotions in England; much greater than he had known in any time of war.

As there is reason to expect the speedy arrival of the others laden with goods from Great Britain, a careful watch should be kept that they may meet with their deserts.

A brig lately loaded by Gibson, Donaldson and Hamilton, of Suffolk with a large quantity of provisions, was lately seized by some of the tenders, and taken to Boston for the supply of the navy and army. . . .

From Princess Anne we hear, that on the eastern shore of that county, lately drifted there several parts of a wreck, quantities of hay, a drummer's uniform, and some other military habits, that render it probable, that one of the transports has been lost near that shore.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1775

Norfolk, July 5.

A brig lately loaded by Gibson, Donaldson and Hamilton, of Suffolk, with a large quantity of provisions, was lately seized by some of the tenders, and taken to Boston for the supply of the navy and army.¹

1. This brig was probably the *John*, Hugh Kennedy, master, loaded with pork, which was sent in by the *Fowey*. The cargo was taken for the use of the Government, and the brig released. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, II, 376, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Scorpion*, JOHN TOLLEMACHE,
COMMANDING ¹

Wednesday 5 July 1775 . At Single Anchor of[f] Cape Fear Bar
First and Middle parts Fresh Breezs, and Clouds latter Mode. at 3 PM saw the
Land from N W B N to N E b N $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 PM came too with the Bt Br in
7 fam Water Veer'd away to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable. Cape Fear E b N $\frac{1}{2}$ N 5 or 6 Miles
Veer'd to a whole Cable

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *Saint John*, LIEUT. WILLIAM GRANT,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 Anchord in Cockspur Road

Wednesday 5 At 8 (A M) Weighed and came to sail Came on board a pilot
and turnd into Cockspur Road A Number of Armed boats passing – Anchord with the small bower in Cockspur Road dis-
charged the pilot A pilot boat came from Town in Whom came
Some Gentlemen and their Servants to take refuge on board the
St John from the Violence of the Mob

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

SAMUEL HUNTING TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

Sr

St. Eustatia July 5th 1775

This may inform you that we arrived at Martinico after a Passage of 27 Days
& could not procure any Mollosses there – & then proceeded to Guadalupe & there
could have got Mollosses from the Kings Plantation at 130 Joann[es] pr 1000lb
but the price to high so came down here & are so unluckly as to find the Messrs
Jennings's both gone from home but find it impossible to get any here as it is
1000 pc Eight fine to sell any to any Englishman we shall proceed to the Lee-
ward – I write pr Capt Pendelton pr Stonington & am in great haste

Your Friend &c

Sam^l Hunting

1. Shaw Collection, Packet No. 3, YUL.

6 July

OPINION OF HIS MAJESTY'S COUNCIL IN NOVA SCOTIA ¹

[Extract]

[Halifax, 6th July 1775]

The Governor asked the Opinion of the Council in respect of Persons claim-
ing the right of Inhabitants of this Province in Order to obtain Certificates for their
safety as proprietors of fishing Vessells as it is requir'd by an Act to "restrain the
Trade & Commerce of the Provinces of Massachusetts Bay & New Hampshire &
Colonies of Connecticut &c a: –

And it having been consider'd who might legally be deem'd Inhabitants of
this Province; The Council were of Opinion agreeable to Lord Cokes definition
of an Inhabitant, in his 2d Institute, folio 703 Vizt ²

Every Person that dwelleth in any Shire, Riding, City, or Town corporate, though he hath but a personal Residence, yet is he said in Law to be an Inhabitant or a dweller there, as Servants &ca – But this Statute extendeth not to them, but to such as be Freeholders. And this is gather'd by the Words of the fourth branch of this Act that giveth the distress Vizt – And to distrain every such Inhabitant &ca in his Lands, Goods & Chattells. And besides it were in a manner infinite & impossible to tax by the next branch of this Act every Inhabitant being no Householder.”

That Benjamin Valpy Owner of the Schooner *Sally* became an Inhabitant of this Province two Years ago –

Also that Solomon Babson Owner of the Schooner *Frederick* had become an Inhabitant in may last –

Also that Sans Standley Owner of the Schooner *Prince William* became an Inhabitant in May last – ³

Also, that Joseph Barss Owner of the Schooner *Industry* became an Inhabitant five Years ago –

1. Nova Scotia Papers, DAC, from PRO, Colonial Office, Class 217.
2. Sir Edward Coke, considered the greatest common law giver of all times, and whose four volumes of *Institute* were published in 1628.
3. The *Prince William*, William Standley, master, was taken October 29, 1775, by Washington's armed schooners *Hancock* and *Franklin*.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE SENT TO TICONDEROGA AND CROWN POINT BY THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

Cambridge, July 6, 1775

The Committee appointed to proceed to the posts of Ticonderoga and Crown Point, &c. beg leave to report, that they proceeded through the new settlements, called the New-Hampshire Grants, and carefully observed the road through the same, and find that there is a good road from Williamstown to the place where the road crosseth the river called Paulet River, which is about fifteen miles from Skenesborough; from thence to the falls of Wood Creek near Major [Philip] Skene's house the road is not feasible and unfit for carriages, but cattle may be drove that way very well.

Your Committee having taken with them the copies of the commission and instruction from the Committee of Safety to Colonel Benedict Arnold, and informed themselves as fully as they were able in what manner he had executed his said commission and instructions, and find that he was with Colonel [Ethan] Allen and others at the time the fort was reduced, but do not find that he had any men under his command at the time of the reduction of those fortresses; but find that he did afterwards possess himself of the sloop on the lake at St. John's. We found the said Arnold claiming the command of said sloop and a schooner, which is said to be the property of Major Skene, and also all the posts and fortresses at the south end of Lake Champlain and Lake George, although Colonel [Benjamin] Hinman was at Ticonderoga with near a thousand men under his command at the several posts.

Your Committee informed the said Arnold of their commission, and, at his request, gave him a copy of their instructions; upon reading of which he seemed greatly disconcerted, and declared he would not be second in command to any person whomsoever; and after some time contemplating upon the matter, resigned his post, and gave your Committee his resignation under his hand, dated the 24th of June, 1775, which is herewith submitted, and at the same time he ordered his men to be disbanded, which, he said, was between two and three hundred. Your Committee not finding any men regularly under said Arnold, by reason of his so disbanding them, appointed Colonel [James] Easton, who was at Ticonderoga, to take the command, under Colonel Hinman, who was the principal commanding officer at those posts of the Connecticut forces, and endeavoured to give the officers and men who had served under said Arnold an opportunity to re-engage, of which numbers enlisted, and several of the officers agreed to hold their command under the new appointment.

Your Committee having taken a critical survey of the garrison and posts of Ticonderoga and Crown Point, found them in a very defenceless state; and consulting with Colonel Hinman, were of opinion, upon the whole, that it is necessary to retain in the service of this Colony, for the present, the number of four hundred men.

As the Committee were informed, from intelligence from Canada, that preparations were making, and endeavours used to bring over the Canadians and savages to be inimical to the Colonies, your Committee having found Captain [James] Noble at the Point, with a number of men who had been under said Arnold, willing to engage in the service, we paid to said Noble one hundred Pounds to be delivered to the men as advance pay and appointed Mr. William Satterlee, a worthy man, to muster them and their arms, and took Captain Noble's and Satterlee's receipt for the same, and their promise to apply it for that purpose, which is herewith submitted.

Your Committee returning to Ticonderoga, and Colonel Easton being there, they paid into his hands the sum of two hundred and eighty Pounds, to be applied for the purpose aforesaid, and took his receipt and promise so to do, and appointed Mr. Jonas Fay, a respectable person, to muster the men and their arms, all except Captain Noble's Company. We also paid into the hands of one Remember Baker, said to be a good officer, who engaged a certain number of men under Colonel Easton, the sum of Twenty Pounds and took his receipt and promise to apply said money as advance pay to said men, which completes the whole of the money delivered to said Committee for the purposes aforesaid.

Your Committee have engaged to Colonel Easton that the remaining part of the advance pay should be immediately sent to him.

Your Committee found that as soon as Colonel Arnold had disbanded his men, some of them became dissatisfied and mutinous, and many of them signified to the Committee that they had been informed that they were to be defrauded out of the pay for past services. The Committee, in order to quiet them, engaged under their hands, in behalf of the Colony of the Massachusetts-Bay, that as soon as the rolls should be made up and properly authenticated, they should be paid

for their past services, and all those who should engage anew should have the same bounty and wages as is promised to those men who serve within said Colony.

Your Committee inquired of Mr. Henry Bleecker of Albany, how the men at those posts were supplied with provisions, who informed that he acted under his brother, who was a Commissioner of Supplies from New-York; that all the men at those stations, of whatsoever Colony, were supplied by him without distinction, and that he should continue so to do until otherwise directed.

Your Committee appointed Timothy Edwards and Samuel Brown, Esquires, a Committee to supply the men under Colonel Easton's command with such necessities as should not be supplied from New York, and appointed Captain Elisha Phelps to act as Commissary under them, to deal out to the men whatsoever should be supplied by the said Edwards and Brown.

Your Committee being of the opinion that a Major should be appointed under Colonel Easton and one surgeon to the battalion, and having inquired into the disposition of the officers and men who have engaged, have appointed John Brown, Esquire, as Major and Mr. Jonas Fay as Surgeon.

Your Committee when they had received Colonel Arnold's resignation, directed him to return to [Provincial] Congress, and render an account of his proceedings, agreeable to their instructions, a copy of which order is herewith submitted.

Your Committee made an examination of the military stores at those posts, a schedule whereof is herewith delivered, excepting some leaden and iron ball and old chains, which have been dug out of the ruins of Crown Point fort.

Your Committee finding that the men at those stations had not a sufficiency of gunpowder to defend the posts, and upon a careful inquiry could not find any at Albany, have directed said Committee of Supplies to supply them with two hundred weight from some of the town stocks in the County of Berkshire, on the credit of the Colony.

Your Committee are of opinion that the maintaining of those posts is of the utmost importance to the security of the Colony of New-York and the New-England Colonies, which was a sufficient inducement to the Committee to continue in the pay of the Colony the number of men before mentioned. The fortress not being at present tenable, there must be a sufficient number of men to command the lake and prevent the enemy from landing.

Your Committee are of opinion that the best security of those posts in their present state is, by armed vessels of various constructions to be kept constantly cruising on the lake, and small boats with swivel guns to act as scouts, which will effectually prevent the army from sudden surprise.

Your Committee have, agreeable to their instructions, advised the honourable American Congress, the honourable Convention of the Colony of New York, and the Governor of Connecticut, by respectfully signifying to them their opinion of the importance of the maintaining those posts and the measures for effectuating the same. All which is humbly submitted.

Walter Spooner, by order

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1596–1598, from Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Thursday, July 6, 1775

Ordered, That Major [Joseph] Hawley, Doctor [John] Taylor, and Col. [Jonathan] Grout, be a Committee to prepare a vote of thanks to the Committee of this Congress this day returned from their embassy at Ticonderoga.

Ordered, That Mr. [Timothy] Langdon, Major [John] Bliss, and Mr. [Abel] Jewett, be a Committee to consider the Report of the Committee this day returned from Ticonderoga, and the Papers accompanying it, and also the Rolls made up by Captain [James] Noble and Captain [Samuel] Herrick.

Afternoon

The Committee appointed to consider the Report of the Committee sent to Ticonderoga, reported. The Report was recommitted, and the last mentioned Committee are directed to lay before the Committee first mentioned, a state of their account, debit and credit.

The Committee appointed to prepare a vote of thanks to the Committee who have been on an embassy to Ticonderoga, reported. The Report was accepted, and is as follows, viz:

Whereas Walter Spooner, Jedediah Foster and James Sullivan, Esquires, a Committee of this Congress, lately ordered on a commission to the important posts of Ticonderoga and Crown Point, for divers purposes expressed in their instructions, have this day returned, and made their report in writing; and it appearing upon full consideration thereof, that the said Committee have executed the various branches of their instructions with ability, fidelity and dispatch, and that their services have been attended with much fatigue and danger; therefore,

Resolved, That the services of the said Committee do merit the express approbation and thanks of Congress, and they do hereby testify and render the same to them, and each of them.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1489, 1490, from Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

BRITISH REPORT OF DESTRUCTION OF LIGHTHOUSE ON THATCHER'S ISLAND ¹

[Boston] July 6, 1775

This day two or three Companies ² went from Cape Ann to Thatcher's Island broke the light House glasses and Lamps all to pieces, brought away all the Oyl together with Captain Kirkwood's family, and all he had on the Island and put them on the Main to shift for themselves.

[Endorsed] Destruction of the light House on Thatcher's Island, Commonly Called Cape Ann Lights 6 July 1775.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

2. Of the Continental Army.

BENJAMIN HALLOWELL TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston 6th July 1775.

Sir – I waited on you monday last to desire permission to transport some hay which I was going to make on an island called Gallop's which makes one part of Nantasket road, near where one of the Kings ships is now at anchor, which you

told me cou'd not be granted before you had consulted the General, and you wou'd give me an Answer on wednesday – I had the honor of seeing the General before that time and (finding that he had not the least objection to my taking my property and removing it to Boston) I immediately acquainted you with the answer I had received. As there did not appear to be any objection to my cutting the grass and making the hay I yesterday employed a number of men for the business, and was going to apply for leave for them to pass the King's ships to the island, but Mr Thomas (who is employed by Government to cut hay on other islands in the harbor for the King's use) told me he had applied for leave for a number of hay-makers and you had forbid any persons from going on the water to land on the islands, in consequence of which the men employed by him, and those which I engag'd were idle all the day. – I shall be much oblig'd to You if you will be pleased to let me know if any and where the difficulty lays of my sending the men hired by me to cut the grass and make my hay that I may remove it. – Inclosed is a list of the names of those people employed by me – for whose conduct I will be answerable. I am &ca

Benja Hallowell

1. Gage Papers, CL.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT, TO MAJOR GENERAL
PHILIP SCHUYLER ¹

[Extract]

Hartford, July 6, 1775

All that we can do is to deliver to Captain [Asa] Douglass forty half barrels [of powder] which he will immediately proceed with agreeable to your order. Our Engineer (Col. [Edward] Mott) at Ticonderoga, has requested that a commander for one of the armed vessels upon Lake George, may be sent up from this Colony – a Captain [Robert] Niles with whom he is acquainted, and who is probably well qualified for the office. But as you can best judge of the nature of this service, and the necessity of sending up this person, you will give me leave to expect your directions upon this project, which I shall very readily conform to.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1594.

CAPTAIN EDWARD MOTT TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Honoured Sir:

Albany, July 6, 1775.

I arrived here last night, ten o'clock, from Ticonderoga; am sent express by Colonel [Benjamin] Hinman to acquaint the Committee at this place, and also the Provincial Congress at New York, with the condition of the troops and garrisons at Ticonderoga, Crown Point, and Fort George; expect to set out from hence for New York tomorrow; have not as yet waited on the Committee here, but write these lines by Captain [Aaron] Stevens, who will not tarry, but sets out for home this morning. When I arrived at Ticonderoga, Colonel Hinman had no command there, as Colonel [Benedict] Arnold refused to let him command either of the garrisons, but had given the command of Ticonderoga to Captain [Rufus] Herrick, from whom Colonel Hinman's men were obliged to take their orders, or were not suffered to pass to and from the garrison. The same day a Committee

of three gentlemen from the Massachusetts, viz: Mr. [Walter] Spooner, Colonel [Jedediah] Foster, and Colonel [James] Sullivan, returned to Ticonderoga from Crown Point, and informed us that they had been to Colonel Arnold, with orders from the Congress requiring him to resign the command to Colonel Hinman, and that he, with his regiment, should come under the command of said Hinman; which said Arnold positively refused; on which said Committee discharged Colonel Arnold from their service, and desired the privilege to speak with the people who had engaged under Arnold, but were refused. [They were] further informed that Colonel Arnold and some of his people were gone on board the vessels; that they understood they threatened to go to St. John's and deliver the vessels to the Regulars, and that Arnold had disbanded all his troops but those that were on board said vessels; that they were treated very ill and threatened, and after they came away in a batteau, they were fired upon with swivel-guns and small-arms by Arnold's people; and that Colonel Arnold and his men had got both the vessels and were drawn off into the Lake. On which I desired Colonel Hinman to let me, with Lieutenant [Jeremiah] Halsey and Mr. [William] Duer, (who was judge of the Court for the County of Charlotte, in this Colony,) with some men to row, have a batteau and proceed up the lake, and go on board the vessels. We obtained liberty and Colonel Sullivan consented to go with us. We got on board the vessels about eleven o'clock in the morning, and he confined three of us on board each vessel; men sat over us with fixed bayonets; and so kept us till sometime in the evening, when we were dismissed and suffered to return. We reasoned with the people on board the vessels all the while we were there, and convinced some of them of their error, who declared they had been deceived by Colonel Arnold. After we returned to the fort, called on Colonel Hinman, who ordered Lieutenant Halsey, with twenty-five men, to return again to the vessels and get what people he could on board to join him, and bring one or both vessels to the fort, which was all settled the next day. Colonel Sullivan was much insulted while we were on board the vessels chiefly by Mr. [John] Brown, one of Colonel Arnold's Captains. Captain Stevens, who is waiting while I write these lines, will not wait longer, or you should hear more particulars. I expect you will have a full account from the gentlemen Committee after they have laid it before their Congress. Captain Elijah Babcock can give a full account of these matters; he tells me he shall be at Hartford in a few days. Shall give further accounts from New York.

I am, Sir, at command, [&c.]

Edward Mott

1. *Bulletin*, Fort Ticonderoga Museum, IV, 3, 85.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 6th, 1775

The Committee, agreeable to the 1st resolve of the 4th inst., went to Red Bank Mud or Fort Island, & viewed them and several parts of the River, and find the Channel from the Fort to the Barr to be 150 fathom or thereabouts. And Report that it is at present impracticable to lay a Boom across that part of the River.

Resolved, That Mess. Robert White & Ow[e]n Biddle be a Committee for the Construction of Boats & Machines for the defence of the River, and it is Recommended to them to employ John Wharton, Joseph Marsh, Emanuel Eyres, Jacob Miller & Thomas David & Joseph Govett.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 283.

LEWIS NICOLA TO PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen Having considered the state of the River Delaware since I had the pleasure of examining part of it with you yesterday, I am sorry to say any effectual defence thereof, so as to protect this city from an Insult by water, appears to me very difficult, tho' not impossible, but fear the expence of doing it to good purpose will be thought too heavy.

Little I apprehend can be expected from land batteries, they may occasion a trifling delay to, but cannot obstruct the passage of vessels of force. Booms and floating batteries unprotected may soon be destroyed. If the force of a large vessel impelled by a favourable wind should not break the former, they might be cut by men in boats while the piers necessary to support a boom sufficient to cross the channel would afford shelter to the men employed on that service from the fire of batteries. From these considerations I am induced to think that the only effectual opposition that can be made to ships of force, is by ships of force. As the vessels to be opposed on our side are not intended to resist the storms and other casualties of the seas their construction may be considerably varied. They may be built so flat as to draw little water, top masts, yards and other appurtenances would be unnecessary, her stores few, this would probably put a vessel of 80 guns in such a state as to draw no more water than one of 50 equipped in the usual manner, besides the expence of half her guns might be reduced to that of so many tuns of pig iron as would ballance the other half, as guns would be required only on one side, her masts might be higher and tops larger than usual, by means of which she could command the tops and decks of enemy.

Two vessels of such force as may be thought necessary, moored across the channel I believe would, with other defences, effectually obstruct a naval force attempting to come up the river. I conceive the most eligible place to station them would be just above the new Fort, because ships lying with their broad sides to them might be raked by a few guns on shore & by floating batteries placed on or behind the bank to the eastward of the channel where they could only be attacked by men in boats, and might be protected by the same means, as a number of armed shallops, boats, &c. might lie behind one of the islands ready to push out when necessary. In this case a boom placed a little below the two vessels would be effectually protected, besides some mortars on shore or on board boats constructed for the purpose might be usefully employed.

It would be requisite to keep an officer and a few men constantly on board these vessels which might be augmented to numbers necessary as follows: Publick notice to be given that on a certain signal the sailors in town should repair on board 'till the crews requisite should be compleated, each sailor to receive -- p day while employed, any hurt to receive smart money, such as are disabled to

receive a pension of --- during life, the first 20 that get on board each vessel to receive a gratuity of -- p man besides his daily allowance.

This, gentlemen, is what at present occurs to me as the most effectual means of protecting the city, which I take the liberty of submitting to your consideration, begging you will excuse any inaccuracies occasioned by the hurry in which I am obliged to write, & that you will permit me to assure you that I am with respect,

Gentlemen [&c.],

July 6th, 1775

Lewis Nicola

1. Hazard *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, vol. IV, 635, 636.

ROBERT BEVERLY TO JOHN BACKHOUSE, LIVERPOOL ¹

Sir

[Virginia] July 6. 1775

You will be pleased to insure 300£ sterling on 32 hhds of my Tobo on board the *Marlborough*, George Dawson, Master exclusive of Premium & Policy &c. I have insured very low for the Times, but as I believe the risque is trifling, I am not willing to spend money unnecessarily in Premiums. I shd suppose Tobo will sell for any Price the Importer may think proper to demand for I am afraid the Prospect of a reconciliation is very remote, so remote, & the Evils impending over us so manifold, that I am become quite melancholy, when I think of publick Affairs, I shall put 8 hhds, I expect, on board Clarke, & will write you fully by Dawson.

1. Robert Beverly Letter Book, LC.

JOSIAH MARTIN, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

North Carolina, Fort Johnston, July 6th 1775.

My Lord, I have the honor to inform your Lordship that I received your several Dispatches by the *Sandwich* Packet yesterday, through the hands of Captain [John] Tollemache Commander of His Majesty's Ship *Scorpion*, who has touched here on his way from Charles Town to Boston, for the purpose of delivering them and giving me opportunity to communicate with General Gage which I have long wished for in vain, no mode of communication by sea having been yet Established by the Admiral or General, while all intercourse with them by land is entirely cut off, by the vigilance of the Committees appointed all over the Continent, which no Messenger or letter can escape, an omission greatly to be lamented, as it may be attended with the worst consequences to His Majesty's Service . . . I cannot adequately express to your Lordship the indignation I felt on hearing from Captain Tollemache at the time of his delivering your Lordship's Dispatches to me that they had been violated before they came to his hands by the Mob at Charles Town, which was certified upon the covers by Mr Roupell the Deputy Post Master General there, in these words, "Opened by the Committee of Inspection at Charles Town, G. Roupell. . . ."

I have engaged Mr Alex Schaw whom I have now the honor to introduce to your Lordship to charge himself with this Letter, and my Dispatch No 34. This Gentlemen, I can assure your Lordship with the utmost confidence, is qualified by his intelligence, his candour and his accurate observation, during some months

that he has resided in this Colony, to give your Lordship every information that you can desire relative to its present condition and circumstances . . . nothing remained but that I should engage Captn Tollemache to stay 48 hours beyond the time he had appointed for his departure for my Dispatches and Mr. Schaw's necessary preparation, which that officer most politely agreed to at my request to do, since it would in my opinion be for the advancement of His Majesty's Service.²

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 69–71.
2. Schaw's departure is described in the diary kept by his sister Janet, and which is published under the title, *Journal of a Lady of Quality* (New Haven, 1921), 196, 197, thus:
 "This will be delivered to you by my brother, who has just stole up from the Sound to bid me, farewell. He has not an hour to stay: he goes home with despatches from the Govr I am lost in confusion, this is unexpected indeed – oh Heavens! Farewell
 "Thank God, my brother got safe aboard the King's ship and sailed with Capt Talmash [Tollemache] in his frigate that same afternoon for England. It was very fortunate he had the precaution to venture thro' the woods under the guidance of a single Negro, for tho' his coming up from the Sound, as well as his intended expedition were concealed with the utmost care, yet his leaving the frigate just as Capt Talmash arrived had been known and raised such suspicions that the roads were guarded to watch his return and seize him. Of this his friend at the Sound was informed and was in the utmost distress. It would not however have been an easy matter to make him yield, as he had an invincible aversion to the tarpot, and as he carried a pair of pistols in each pocket, he would have tried these in the first instance; but it is much better as it is. I have a letter from him after he got on board Capt Talmash."

7 July

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER [TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES] FROM CAPTAIN [ANDREW] BARKLEY OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Scarborough* AT PISCATAQUA, DATED 7TH OF JULY 1775."¹

In your Order to me of the 17th Decr last among other things You acquainted me that Governor Wentworth had represented to You, that the Province and Customhouse Treasuries were in danger of being seized, upon my Arrival at Portsmouth and frequently since, I acquainted Governor Wentworth and the Collector of the Customs that I was ready to receive Onboard, such Money or Papers, as they might think was in danger of falling into the Hands of Rebels or disaffected People, accordingly the Collector from time to time sent what Monies he had belonging to the Crown Onboard the *Scarborough*, It was said in Town last Week that the Congress now sitting at Exeter had passed Resolves to remove the Province Treasury from Portsmouth, I acquainted Governor Wentworth of such Report, and wonder'd he had not ordered it Onboard the *Scarborough* long before, as I imagined he meant it, as the Treasurer came under the Protection of the *Scarborough* about a Month ago, when there was a tumult in the Town, which Treasurer then told me that he expected they would demand the Money of him every hour; it was for that reason that he came down here for Shelter; Accordingly A Committee from the Congress came to Town last Saturday and demanded the said Money of the Treasurer, which was quietly delivered up to them amounting from sixteen hundred to two thousand Pounds, which they carried out of Town in great Triumph, without the least hindrance or Molestation to the Astonishment of every Person who wished well to Government, and I suppose by this time it is at their head Quarters at Cambridge.

As the Treasury was mentioned in my Orders I thought it my duty to acquaint You of this event, every thing remains here in the same State as it did when I wrote You by the *Falcon*, only, I hear they have removed two of the twenty four Pounders which I mentioned to You in my last, to Cambridge, and have got Carriages made for the others, but they have not as yet mounted them, nor do I believe they intend mounting them in this port.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown], Friday, July 7, 1775

The Committee appointed to consider the Report of the Committee who have been on an embassy to Ticonderoga, reported. The Report was accepted, and is as follows, viz.

Whereas it appears to this Congress that the sum of four hundred Pounds, received by Walter Spooner, Jedediah Foster, and James Sullivan, Esquires, of the Receiver-General, the 14th of June last, for the use of this Colony, has been expended by them, for the purpose for which it was designed by this Congress; therefore,

Resolved, That the said Walter Spooner, Jedediah Foster, and James Sullivan, Esquires, be, and they hereby are discharged from all demands the Colony at any time had upon them for the same, and that the receipts produced by them be filed in the Treasurer's Office.

Resolved, That there be paid out of the publick Treasury of this Colony to Walter Spooner, Jedediah Foster, and James Sullivan, Esquires, the sum of twenty-six Pounds, three Shillings and nine Pence, for the balance due to them from this Colony for their time and expences to Crown Point, &c.; and the Receiver General is hereby directed to pay the same sum accordingly.

Resolved, That there be paid out of the public Treasury of this Colony, to Mr. Abijah Merrill, the sum of four hundred Pounds, to be by him delivered to Colonel [James] Easton, for advance pay to two hundred men at Crown Point and Ticonderoga, and the said Merrill to take a receipt of said Easton therefor; and the Receiver General is hereby directed to pay the same sum accordingly.

Resolved, That there be paid out of the public Treasury of this Colony, the sum of two hundred and fifty-two Pounds, eleven Shillings, and one Penny half-penny, to Lieutenant William Satterlee, or order, being the balance of the Pay-Roll of Captain [Samuel] Herrick's Company, from the 3d of May to the 25th of June last; and the Receiver General is hereby directed to pay the same sum accordingly. And the said Herrick and Satterlee are hereby discharged from all demands which Colonel [Benedict] Arnold or this Province had for the sum of twenty-three Pounds twelve Shillings, received by said Herrick and Satterlee of said Arnold, for the use of the Company of said Herrick.

Col. [Jonathan] Grout was appointed to accompany Mr. Merrill to the Receiver General to know of him if he can pay him the full four hundred Pounds, agreeable to the above Resolve.

Afternoon

Col. Grout informed the Congress that he had accompanied Mr. Merrill to the Receiver General's Office, and that the Receiver General informed them that there was not money in the Treasury sufficient to pay said Merrill the sum which the Congress have directed the said Receiver General to pay him.

Ordered, That Colonel [Nathaniel] Dwight, Colonel Robinson, and Deacon Williams, be a Committee to prepare a Letter to Colonel Easton, informing him that the state of the Treasury is such that Mr. Merrill cannot at present be supplied with the sum of four hundred Pounds which this Congress has this day directed the Receiver General to pay him.

The Committee appointed to take into consideration a Letter from the Committee of Safety for the Town of Machias (dated June 17, 1775) relative to fitting an armed Sloop to act on the defensive, and to report thereon, do report in manner following, viz:

Resolved, That when and so soon as the Committee of Safety of said Town of Machias shall have fitted and armed a Sloop for their defence and security, and have procured a sufficient number of hands to man, and a proper person to command said Sloop, and shall send the name of such person to this Congress then this Congress will commission such a person to take command of said Sloop, and to act on the defensive for the security and defence of said Town of Machias.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

JAMES WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Watertown, July 7, 1775

The powder you sent us arrived yesterday, and was viewed as it passed with a kind of pleasure I suppose you felt in sending it. The want of that article is the only obstacle I have in getting through a project of mine for a fleet. I made the motion early in the Sessions, and though opposed by [John] Pickering, &c., this is the one reason that prevailed.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 78.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE, HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Falcon* ¹

You are hereby required and directed to proceed in his Majesty's Sloop under your Command and anchor her between Hull Point and Petticks Island in this Harbour, where you are to remain until further Order, strictly examining every Vessel going out or coming in that none may pass irregularly, and to seize and destroy all Boats or Vessels you shall discover belonging to the Rebels whether armed for fighting or calculated for the Transportation of Troops. And whereas I am informed that the Rebels are bringing Numbers of Whale Boats across the Neck from Dartmouth and Dorchester to Hingham and the Neighbouring Villages; You are here by required and directed to send me every information you can procure concerning their real situation and destination, and to use your utmost En-

deavours to destroy such of them as may appear within your Reach, and you are to hold yourself in readiness to sail at a Day's Notice.

Given under my hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston* at Boston 7 July 1775

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 451, MassHS Transcript.

BENJAMIN HALLOWELL TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston July 7th 1775.

Sir, In my Letter of yesterday ² I acquainted you I had hired a Number of men to cut the grass and make the hay on Gallops island, & asked your permission that they may pass the King's Ships to do that business for me. my property suffering by the grass remaining un-cut. I sent this morning and asked the favor of an answer, the messenger returns and says that there is none to be given. I am &ca

Benjⁿ Hallowell

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. Hallowell meant two days before, namely July 5, 1775.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 7th [July 1775]

The *Falcon* sailed down the Harbour and anchored between Hull Point and Pettick's Island with Orders to examine every thing that passed, to seize and destroy every Vessel or Boat belonging to the Rebels, and to send the Admiral what information he could procure of the Whale Boats said to be bringing across the Neck from Dartmouth and Dorchester to Hingham and the neighbouring Villages.

The Admiral observing that the sharp construction and great draught of water of the men of wars boats rendered them very unfit for going up the narrow Creeks which abound in the neighbourhood of Boston, where if they took the ground and there was not room for them to turn about, it would be hardly practicable to retreat, and the crew be in danger of becoming prey to the enemy, invented a boat of particular construction. This vessel was 36 feet in length and nearly 12 in width calculated to row with either end foremost, and by having the greatest draught of water amid ship and from thence gradually shallowing towards the extremities, was by means of her curved keel admirably formed for mooring quickly forward or backward without a necessity of winding round, so in all cases to approach or make off from the shore with equal ease and speed as occasion should require; and yet this her make facilitated even her putting about or spinning as it were upon her own center, where there was room. She mounted a four pounder at each end, had eight swivels upon the sides, rowed with 20 oars, carried 75 men armed and accoutred, with a weeks provisions of both kinds compleat, and yet drew but 9 or 10 inches water at most, steered with an oar in a grummett; and would outrow the fleetest of the navy barges. If she run aground from eagerness of pursuit or in the night, the rowers had only to face about upon their present seats or upon the next thwarts, pull in the contrary direction, and she went off in a moment. Each bow was secured by a mantelet of oxhides against

musquetry, & the piece of ordnance there, by moving in a groove, pointed in any direction. This invention, equally formidable and useful for a weeks campaign in shallow Creeks, being found to answer its design, the Admiral caused a neat model to be made and sent to the Admiralty for their satisfaction.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 135, 136, MassHS Transcript.

COLONEL BENJAMIN HINMAN TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER ¹

Sir

Ticonderoga July 7th 1775

Yours of 29 June I have recd. by which I have the pleasure of being informed of your appointment to the Command of the Troops in this Quarter Agreeable to your Request I have made as minute a Return of the forces guns ammunition & stores as I am capable of under our present unsettled Circumstances

As to Govr. [Guy] Carleton's motions I can say but little with regard to them it is said that there is at St Johns about 350 Regulars a few Canadians and a small number of Indians at the other posts by what intelligence I can get there is about 250 of the Kings troops or thereabouts, at St Johns they are fortifying and building some water craft by what I can learn, but with what intent we cannot yet determine.

You may be assured of my taking every opportunity of informing the Canadians of our friendly intentions towards them, but they are so very cautious the passes are so guarded that it is almost impossible to get any information to them

I have lately sent a Committee to Skeensborough to enquire into the state of affairs there, find they want to be put under some new Regulations the Place at present is kept by some men who Mr [Benedict] Arnold put there But as I expected you would be up in a short time I have not given any orders respecting the management of things there, but shall wait for your Orders relative thereto

I am &c

Benjamin Hinman

P.S. I wait Sr. with Impatance for your Arivel as I find myself very unable to sterve in this Stormy Cituation Sumtimes wee have no Flower and a constant crye for Rum and want Molases for bear which was engagd to our people the Falliour of those who provide gives grate Uneaseyness to the Men – hope for better Times on your Arivel.

1. Papers CC, 153, NA.

WILLIAM TRYON, GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

My Lord

New York 7th July 1775

In the delicate state of my health and public situation, & it being very probable I may be either taken Prisoner, as a state Hostage, or obliged to retire on board one of His Majestys Ships of War to avoid the insolence of an inflamed Mob, you will see the expediency of my humble request to His Majesty for discretionary leave to return to England and that it may be sent out to me by the next Packet; was I to remain three four or five months on board the ship on Salt Provisions, in my billious Habit of Body I should afterwards have but little prospect of compleating the voyage, the King may be assured I will make no wanton, hasty, or improper

use of such Grace, and if I find I cannot stay in my Government will resign my Commission as Governor on my arrival in England. But should His Majesty have the least wish to recall me, I shall most cheerfully and obediently submit to His Royal Will Your Lordships good offices in obtaining for me the above request will greatly oblige my Lord Your Lordships [&c.]

W^m Tryon

1. O'Callaghan, ed., *Colonial New York*, VIII, 592.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 7th, 1775

Resolved, That Mr. John Wharton immediately procure materials & make preparations for building a Boat or Calevat, and that he exhibit a model of one to morrow morning, when he will have further instructions for the construction of one.

Resolved, That Mr. Owen Biddle give the thanks of this Board to Mr. Lewis [Nicholas] Nicola, for his plan delivered the Committee this day.²

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 284.

2. See Nicola's letter of July 6, 1775.

JOSEPH HEWES TO THE INDEPENDENT COMPANY OF EDENTON ¹

Gentlemen

Philadelphia 7th July 1775.

Your favour of the 31st of May by Capt Hatch I have received, before it came to hand I had sent by a Schooner bound to Currituck two Drums. two Colours and a Staff for each Colour and I now send to Mr Smith half a dozen Fifes, it is not in my power to get a Cuttean ² in this City nor can I get a gun & Bayonet for myself on any terms, such is the want of Arms here – I have endeavoured to get a drill Sergeant a Drummer and Fifer for your Comd. but cannot get either the demand for those fellows is so great at present that some of them actually receive £6. per week I am very glad to hear that your Company is so ready to turn out in defense of American Liberty I hope you spare no pains to have yourselves properly trained that you may be fitt for action when the service of your Country may call you forth.

I am with great respect [&c.]

1. Copy in Johnston Collection, HL.

2. Meaning not clear; possibly cutlass.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND ¹

At a meeting of the Committee of Observation for Talbot County, on Friday, the 7th of July, 1775:

James Lloyd Chamberlaine, in the Chair.

Messrs. Thomas Harrison, William Hamilton, Richard Skinner, and Hugh Rice, four of the gentlemen deputed to go on board the Ship *Johnston*, and examine her papers and log book, appear and report: That on notice from Mr.



(Left) Charles Carroll of Carrollton, By Robert Field, 1803. (Middle) Joseph Hewes. By Charles Willson Peale, 1776. (Right) William Henry Drayton. By an unknown engraver, 1783.

James Braddock, agent and Factor for Messrs. James Gildart and John Gawith and Co., of Liverpool, merchants, in the night of the 27th of June last, they did in the morning of the 28th, get on board said Ship *Johnston*, then lying in the Western Bay, waiting the return of her boat sent for the said deputation, and did examine her manifest, cocket and log-book, by which they found that she had on board Salt, fourteen Convicts, two indented Servants, and Dry-Goods, as in the annexed schedule; said by Mr. Braddock to be shipped by Mr. James Gildart, on account of the above-mentioned Gildart and Gawith, and did give orders for her immediate return, permitting her, however, to lay at Hampton Roads, in Virginia, to take in a recruit of bread and water.

They further report, that Mr. Braddock applied to them for leave to land the convicts and servants; to which they replied, that they could see nothing in the proceedings of the [Continental] Congress relative to convicts or servants, and therefore could give no directions with regard to their being landed; but told him, if he chose to do it, it must be at his own risk; on which Mr. Braddock did land the said convicts and servants, when they (the deputation) came on shore, alleging in his justification, that servants had been a few days before landed at Annapolis and Baltimore Town, and were then advertised for sale.

They further say, that they charged Captain Jones, of the said Ship *Johnston*, to return immediately to the Port of Liverpool, without breaking bulk, which he, the said Captain assured them he would do; and when they left him, he stood down the bay. The deputation also say, that Mr. Braddock, in their hearing, told the said Captain he must proceed immediately on his return as aforesaid. One of the deputation further saith he overheard the Captain, in private conversation with Mr. Braddock, remonstrate that he could not land the Salt at Liverpool; to which Mr. Braddock replied, they might do as they would with it, but that he (the Captain) must immediately carry it back to the place from whence it came.

It is the unanimous opinion of this Committee, that the said Messrs. James Gildart and John Gawith, by sending the said Goods to be landed in America, have been guilty of a breach of the first Resolve of the American Association, viz: "That if any Merchant, residing in Great Britain or Ireland, shall, directly or indirectly, ship any Goods, Wares, or Merchandise, for America, in order to break the Non-Importation Agreement, or in any manner contravene the same, on such unworthy conduct being well attested, it ought to be made publick; and on the same being so done, we will not thenceforth have any commercial connexion with such Merchants."

Resolved, therefore, for ourselves and our constituents, That we will from henceforth break off all commercial connection with the said Messrs. James Gildart and John Gawith, and each of them, their and each of their agents, factors and store-keepers.

Resolved also, That agreeable to a determination of the Provincial Convention, in December last, no Gentleman of the Law ought henceforthward to bring or prosecute any suit whatever for the said Messrs. James Gildart and John Gawith, or for either of them, their or either of their agents, factors, managers, or store-keepers, as such.

Ordered, That the proceedings of this meeting be immediately made publick and printed in the *Maryland Gazette*.

Signed per order:

John Bracco, Clerk pro tem.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1104, 1105.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1775

Williamsburg, July 7.

Last Sunday [July 2] the *Fowey* man of war returned to her moorings before York town, with Lord DUNMORE and Captain Foy on board having only proceeded as far as the capes with the *Magdalen* schooner, which carried Lady DUNMORE, and the rest of the Governor's family, immediately to England. – And on Tuesday, the *Otter* sloop, Capt. [Matthew] Squires, fell down to the mouth of York river; intending, we hear, to cruise along the coast, and seize all provision vessels.

South Carolina and American General Gazette, FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1775

Charlestown, July 7.

On Tuesday last [July 4] his Majesty's sloop *Scorpion*, commanded by Hon. Capt. [John] Tollemache, sailed for Boston

8 July

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Glasgow*, TYRINGHAM HOWE, COMMANDING ¹

1775 July [Off Cape Cod] Latitude 41.9

Saturday 8 P M brot to two Briggs from Nantucket ² & a Transpt from New York with Troops for Boston Do sent the Acting Lieut. & 4 Men on board one of the Briggs & 2 Midn & 4 Men on board the other

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

2. The brigs were the *Peace & Harmony*, James Wishart, master, and the *Neptune*, John Davis, master, both with cargoes of oil and staves, bound for London. They were sent into Boston and were "Allowed to proceed on their Voyage to London," Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston July 8th 1775

Sir/ The distress of this Town for the want of Provisions (and particularly Fresh for the Sick and Wounded) is such that I must earnestly Apply to you to Suffer vessels to pass, and repass, for that purpose, without Molestation, and to carry such Articles, as I may give permission for, to enable the purchasers to bring such Provisions, as we are in Extreme want of, and without which we can scarcely exist: Mr James Anderson, wants now to send a Vessel to Nova Scotia, and I beg he may be permitted to pass and repass, without hindrance, as long as he is employed in this necessary Business.

I am Sir &ca

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston July 8th, 1775 –

Sir/ I have the Honor to Transmit you an Extract of a Letter I have received this Day from Major General [William] Howe, concerning the Gondolas, which I should be Obligated to you to have put in such repair as to make them Serviceable, what you cannot conveniently supply, I shall Order.

I am Sir &ca

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir.

Boston 8th July 1775.

Whatever Articles Your Excellency shall think necessary to procure Provisions for the Town and particularly fresh for the Sick and Wounded shall be allowed to go out, And all Vessels employed on that Service be suffered to pass without any hinderance except the customary Visitation from the King's Ships; Your Excellency however will be so good from time to time to particularize what You would choose to have exported for the above purposes, to prevent any Abuse of a Measure absolutely necessary for His Majesty's Service. I have the honor to be with great Respect and Esteem, Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

Mr [James] Anderson shall have a pass to Nova Scotia as your Excellency desires

1. Gage Papers, CL.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 8th [1775]

Resolved, That Mr. John Wharton immediately build a Boat or Calevat of 47 to 50 feet keel, thirteen feet broad, & four and a half feet deep.²

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 284.

2. Subsequently interchangeably known as galleys or gondolas.

WILLIAM HOOPER AND JOSEPH HEWES, NORTH CAROLINA DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, TO PETER VANBRUGH LIVINGSTON, PRESIDENT OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

Sir

Philadelphia, June [July] 8th, 1775

The committee of this City, a few days ago, transmitted to you an original letter from Gov. [Josiah] Martin to Henry White, Esq., from the contents of which it is very obvious that Gov. Martin has formed designs highly inimical to the friends of America. From authentic information we learn that he is to receive a supply of gunpowder from General Gage, via New-York, and that he has sent from North-Carolina a cutter well armed to receive it. She is a small boat, rigged like a schooner, mounts a few swivels, and is commanded by a Mr. Bridges, the lieutenant of the *Tamar*, man of war; the vessel, we believe, was formerly purchased in New-York by a Captain Vollet. We beg your particular care, in case she should arrive in your port, to take the steps you may think prudent to secure her and her

cargo. She is probably to receive the gunpowder from the *Asia*, or some other man of war lying in your harbour.

We are. Sir [&c.]

William Hooper Joseph Hewes

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 73.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1775

Williamsburg, July 8.

The *Fowey* man of war returned to York a few days ago, and his Excellency the Governor is still on board.

Two carpenters from the *Fowey* were yesterday taken near the Capitol Landing, where they were cutting timber for the ship. They were brought to town in the evening, by a party of volunteers, and are greatly satisfied in being removed from so disagreeable a situation as theirs was on board the man of war.

GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

North Carolina Fort Johnston July 8th. 1775.

Sir, I eagerly embrace this Opportunity which the politeness of Lord William Campbell, &, of Captain [John] Tollemache has afforded me to communicate with your Excellency on the Affairs of this Colony.

My Duty to His Majesty's Service requires me to represent to your Excellency, that the *Cruizer* Sloop of War is by no means a sufficient force for this Station at present, This River alone, to which there are two Entrances, in my humble Opinion, might fully employ a 20 Gun Ship besides, and the Coast of this Province, that is near three Hundred Miles in Extent, and full of little Inletts, would require I should apprehend, at least two, if not three more Armed Vessels to watch it, and effectually to prevent the introduction of War like Stores, in which I have great reason to think there have been already considerable Importations, & according to my Information, much larger Supplies are continually expected, that it will be next to impossible to intercept, unless some Cruizers are stationed upon the Coast for that purpose.

His Majesty's Sloop *Cruizer*, under the Command of Captain [Francis] Parry, whose Zeal, and vigilance, omits no occasion to promote and forward His Majesty's Service, to the utmost of his power, is become my best asylum in the present time of Confusion in this Country, as in this Situation I find myself able at once to attend to the business of the Province, and to communicate with His Majesty's Minister and Officers, which in present circumstances of the Colony, I could not do in any place of Security that I could find in the interior Country, which is the only part of this Province not yet poisoned with disaffection, and alienated from the King, and in a state of preparation to act offensively against His Majesty's Government. The smallness of the *Cruizer*, renders me an inconvenient Guest to Captain Parry, I am very sensible: and therefore I the more lament it; while I am bound to acknowledge, his politeness Teaches me to forget every inconvenience of my own, arising from the want of better Accomodations.

I beg your Excellency to be assured however that I do not presume from any Selfish reason, or consideration of my own convenience, to represent the necessity

of a Larger Ship being Stationed here than the *Cruizer*. I can accomodate myself chearfully to any Circumstances, which the necessities of His Majesty's Service may require me to Submit to, but the principle upon which I humbly offer my Sentiments to your Excellency, on the propriety of sending a larger Vessel here, is, that this little Fort which is to the last degree contemptible, is nevertheless a necessary Door of communication with the Country of whose internal Strength I hope to avail His Majesty's Service greatly, whenever my Hands are properly Strenthened, and the safety of this place that is without a Garrison suitable to its Defence and Destitute of Powder, will depend entirely upon the aid it may receive from the King's Ships, and which can neither be expected, or afforded, in any effectual degree, by the *Cruizer*, as I am sure your Excellency will admit.

I beg leave on this occasion humbly to recommend to your Excellency's consideration the expediency of establishing some regular, and constant Channel of intercourse with the Southern Colonies, by which the King's Governors might hold your Excellency, and the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Land Forces apprised from time to time, of all such Circumstances as it might be necessary for His Majesty's Service, to communicate to you, and him, which they cannot longer attempt by Land, since the violence that have been done to the Post Offices, and Mails – and which is not to be effected by water conveyance, as there are not Vessels, or charges allowed for such purposes by Government – and that it will be hardly possible in these times of disaffection, to procure Vessels on any Emergency for such Service. The utility and necessity of such an Establishment as I have proposed to your Excellency, is the more evident to me, from the ill consequence of false Account circulated by the People of New England of the affair at Lexington, anticipating many Weeks General Gage's relation of that matter, to which the first false impressions, that gained over Multitudes of People to side of Rebellion, have not yet yielded in any degree.

(Sign'd) Jo: Martin

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

CAPTAIN JOHN COLLET TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Nth Carolina Fort Johnston 8th July 1775

The forlorn Situation I am in, will I hope apologize for the liberty of taking any of your Excellency's time at this busy juncture and of adding few words to Governor [Josiah] Martin's representation of it – Reduced by desertion to 12 men; with 2 half barrels gun powder, I am left to defend a Fort much too large for that number; and to Keep and Save 14 eighteen Pounders, 16 nine do and 20 swivels. This is the only place to keep up a Communication & correspondence with the Head-Quarters, or any other parts – The loss of Such Sett of artillery, would be attended with too bad Consequences, to leave the least doubt in my mind About its being my duty to risk all to whether the storm forming about me. Had I but fifty good hands, Arms & powder enough, I am Conscious, no number nor forces of them would get the better of me. I heartily wish they may give us time enough to hear from your Excellency; flattering mySelf that your orders will relieve me from a most desperate situation –

If any thing happens before, I'll make the most of a bad game, and I dare Answer that nothing Shall be wanting in my Conduct, which may induce your Excellency to put to the Test my Zeal for His Majesty's Service; and to give me frequent opportunities of deserving and Securing your Excellency's Esteem and further protection – I have the honour to be with the utmost respect Sir [&c.]

John Collet ²

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. Collet was a young Swiss, appointed upon the King's recommendation, to the command of Fort Johnston in 1767. While so appointed, he was under the jurisdiction of the North Carolina assembly, the fort being a provincial establishment.

SIR JAMES WRIGHT, GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

Savanah in Georgia the 8th July, 1775

No 52

I wrote Your Lordship in my Letter No. 51 that our Inlet was Guarded by Boats with Many Arm'd Men from Carolina, Since which several have gone down there from Savanah; all waiting the Arrival of a Ship expected from London with Gun Powder, it is said to seize upon the Gun Powder, those from Carolina to take out the Gun Powder out belonging to the Inhabitants of their Province and those from hence to take out the Powder belonging to the Inhabitants of this Province, at least that is what is given out. And Capt. [William] Grant in His Majestys Armed Schooner having call'd in here The Liberty Gentlemen have fitted out a Schooner some say with 8 & some with 10 Carriage Guns Many Swivels & 50 Men. Capt. Grant is sail'd & no Vessel sent here yet by Admiral [Samuel] Graves And when in Council on the 4 Inst. Mr. Baillie, the Commissary (in whose Charge the Guns &c. belonging to His Majesty are) came there & Inform'd me that a Great Many People were taking & Carrying away some of the Guns, Carriages, Shot &c. for the Particulars of which I begg leave to referr to the Inclosd Copys of Affidavits and to the Inclosed Extract of the Minute of Council Relative thereto.

[Endorsed] R 19th August.

1. *Collections of the Georgia Historical Society*, III, 191, 192.

9 July (Sunday)

GENERAL ORDERS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Head Quarters, Cambridge, July 9, 1775.

The Continental Congress having been pleased to appoint Horatio Gates Esq. Brigadier General, and Adjutant General of the Army; he is to be obeyed as such; and all Orders transmitted through him from the Commander in Chief, whether written or verbal, are to be punctually and immediately obey'd.

The General (or in his absence) The Commanding Officer at Roxbury, to send a Report every day in writing, Sealed up, to the Commander in Chief at Head Quarters, in Cambridge, of all the national Occurrences of the preceding day; mentioning particularly, all Arrivals of Ships and Vessels in the bay; and

what changes and alterations are made, in the Stations of the Men of war, Transport's, and floating batteries, &c.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 318, 319.

LETTER FROM J. HOOPER ¹

Dr Sir

Newbury Port Sunday Eveng 9th July [1775]

I have the Pleasure to inform you, that the *Rockingham* left our Bar at 8 OClock this Eveng with a Brisk Breeze at S West & from the Appearance of the Night, I doubt not she will [be] 16 to 20 Leagues Distance ere the Dawn Appears – I wish her Success – Mugford the Mate left her 2 Nights pass'd without Leave from the Master, which Oppy was prudently embrac'd by shipping another Mate of an extream good Character. – I have persuaded Cole Forde to draw for 200 £ sterling & I have drew for £300 as you will find by the enclos'd Bills, all of which will lessen the Risque of the Adventure out, which Trust will be agreeable to you –

I hope this will meet you in Health & Safety at Watertown, & believe me to be [&c.]

J Hooper

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194. The addressee is unknown.

BENJAMIN HALLOWELL TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston July 9th 1775

Sir The 7th instant I wrote you a second letter requesting the favor of you to give directions to the King's Ships that the eight Men I had named might pass down this harbor for the purpose of Cutting the grass & making the hay (My Property) on Gallop's island – the bearer of each Returned with a Message from you that neither of the letters Required an answer upon reconsidering what had passed at the different times when I waited on you on the business of the hay being water born I now apprehend that my Complying with your demands I might be allowed to bring it to Boston – therefore I do submit to the heavy Contribution you have laid me under, & that you may take one half [of] my property for your leave that I may do what is Requisite to get the other half up here & to facilitate its being done immediately I shall send the people to the island early tomorrow Morning & as I mean to do every thing on my part must beg the favor that you will give the Necessary directions that they are not interrupted. the interest every day is suffering very much. I am &c.

Benj Hallowell

1. Clinton Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston July 9. 1775

I have had the Honor of your Excellency's Letter inclosing an Extract from Major General [William] Howe's concerning the Articles and Alterations wanting in the floating Battery Boats –

They were fitted ashore by the Engineer's Carpenters, under the direction of Colonel [Thomas] James, and I imagine it will be more agreeable to your Excellency that these people should finish their Work and make the Alterations required – Men shall be sent to Compleat the Complements of the three Scows – There is no Canister Shot allowed to the fleet – We buy Oars in Boston and at present have very few Spare ones for the Ships boats so that I cannot send any to the floating batteries.

Grape Shot, Guntackles, Hand spikes, Musquets, Cutlasses shall be delivered if your Excellency will be pleased to order an officer having charge of Ordnance Stores to receive and give proper receipts for them to the Gunners of the King's Ships.

No Receipts can yet be obtained for the Stores already Issued from the *Preston* for the Use of the Army – The Captain and Gunner Consequently can not receive their pay, My Order being insufficient for that purpose, without receipts to accompany it; I shall therefore be greatly obliged to your Excellency to give directions that the proper officer may always attend to give receipts for such Stores as shall, upon Your Excellency's application, be occasionally supplied from the fleet, to prevent any delay to the Service, or detriment to the officers having charge of Stores.

Tanned Hides I believe May be got in Boston – there are no More in each Ship than is barely sufficient for the Magazine – however if none can be procured ashore – One of the Ships shall part with hers. I am Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 9 [July, 1775]

A Third Scow being required by his Excellency to be stationed on the Flank of Boston Neck, the Admiral ordered the *Somerset*, *Boyne* and *Preston* to supply men for that purpose, & in various other articles contributed all in his power to the daily demands for the army.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 138.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Scorpion*, JOHN TOLLEMACHE, COMMANDING ¹

Sunday 9 July 1775 Cape Fear No 32 W 11 Leags:
at 12 [midnight] hove Short, Weig'd and Came to Sail Pilot still on board.
First part Squally with Rain, Middle and Latter Light Breeze. & fair PM.
Sounded, Jack'd Ship Occasly

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety [Charleston] Sunday, July 9th 1775.

The following Pilots were sent for, and examined, as to the Effect the Removal or taking away the Beacon on Middle Bay Island might have – viz. Mr Spedel, Mr Elsinore & Mr. Waldron.

Resolved, That Encouragement be given to Importers of Arms, Ammunition & coarse Foreign Cloths, by paying them for such Articles in Rice

1. Laurens Collection, SCHS.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *Saint John*, LIEUT. WILLIAM GRANT,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 Georgia Barr No 43 Wt 90 Leag

Sunday 9 Fresh breezes and Squally – Hove to fired 2/ 3 pounders and brought to a Ship from St Domingo and a Schooner from Turks Island with Salt – Boarded and Rummaged the said Vessels Suspecting them to have powder on board.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

10 July

DEPOSITION OF THOMAS FLINN, MASTER OF THE *Falmouth Packet* ¹

Halifax SS

The Deposition of Thos Flinn, Master of the Schooner *Falmouth Packet* taken before me George Deschamps Esqr One of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Halifax aforesaid this Tenth July in the fifteenth Year of His Majestys Reign Annoque Domini 1775

This Deponent Saith that he sailed from Windsor in this Province in the said Schooner *Falmouth Packet* whereof he is Master, on the second of June last for Machias to Load Boards, and Arrived there the 10th of said June where he found every thing Quiet. That on the Eleventh day of June being Sunday, in the Evening about 10 oClock a number of Armed Men Attacks a Kings Tender schooner Commanded by Capt [James] Moore (who they supposed Intended to Rescue two Sloops belonging to Mr Ichabod Jones which the People of Machias had seized) they first Desired Capt Moore to strike to the sons of Liberty and come on shore; but on his refusing they fired upon him and he Return'd it the Firing was smart for about a Quarter of an Hour when Capt Moore cut his Cables and fell down the River, with the Tide near the Mouth of the River where as the Deponent was Inform'd Capt Moore came along side of a Sloop outward bound and took out the Captain one Toby of Sandwich, and one of his Men together with some Stores, That on Monday Morning Capt Moore Weighd Anchor and went down to the Mouth of the River where he came to an Anchor gaving carried away his Gaff, and there he met with a Sloop from Horton [sic!] Commanded by one Rathbone bound into Machias whose Gaff & Boom Capt Moore took away together with a Mr Robert Avery of Horton,² that the same Morng about six oClock about Twenty arm'd men Inhabitants of Machias Among whom were Mr Benjn Forster John Scott John/[Long] and Ephraim Chase came on board the Schooner *Falmouth Packet* and Demanded the Vessel of this Deponent which was Refused, when they declared it was in vain to Refuse as they would take her by Force, and Insisted on this Deponent and his People Proceeding with them, but

on his Peremptorily refusing to go or to suffer his People they put both himself and his people on shore, after which they proceeded down the River together with one of Mr. Jones's Sloops with about Thirty men, on board said Sloop and at the Mouth of the River Engaged and took as this Deponent was Inform'd, the said Kings Tender, in the Attack of which Mr Robert Avery and one Man of the Tender were Killed on the spott & Capt Moore and five others were Wounded of which Wounds the Capt and two others are since dead, the Machias People had One Man Killed and four Wounded, Mr Jones's Sloop was Commanded by Jeremiah OBrian an Inhabitant of Machias.

On Tuesday 13th June this Deponents Vessel was return'd to him when he Proceeded to load his Cargo of Boards, and was loaded ready to sail on the 22d when at the Mouth of the River an Armed Boat in which were John Long Willm Tupper, Wm OBrian Jabez West, Joseph Wheaton and One Young and one Bale and another Man who seized his Vessell, and carried her up the River were they detained him untill the fifth day of July Instant, when the Committee of Safety at Machias gave him a Permit to sail and he Proceeded Accordingly to this place the 6th Instant

Some Days before he sailed they fitted out a Sloop of Ichabod Jones's burthen about Ninety Tons, Armed as this Deponent was Inform'd with four or six Cannon four Pounders, and fourteen swivels, and Manned with about forty Men, and this Armed Vessell left the Town were this Deponent lay on the first Instant said by some with design to fetch Provisions from Philadelphia and by others to Cruize for the Cattle Vessells bound from Windsor to Boston, One Jeremiah OBrian was said to be Master of this Vessell.

One Capt Smith of Machias returned from the Congress while this Deponent lay there and brought from Salem a Vessell with a Quantity of Provisions and Ammunition & they Expected more.

The same Day this Deponent left Machias he spoke to Lieut Knight of the *Diligent* Cruizing off the Wolves by Grand Manan, who brought him too, as also a Sloop from Machias Commanded by Capt Williams who was on board Mr Knight This Deponent was twice with the Committee of Safety when Mr James Lyons a Minister late of Picton in this Province was Chairman which Committee was Established after the taking the Tender there were two Brigs and a schooner loading when he left Machias

Tho^s Flinn

Taken & Sworn to the aforementioned 10th July 1775 before me George Deschamps Jus. Pc.

Isaac Dankes Mate of the said schooner *Falmouth Packet* Deposeth that the within Deposition is the same as what he saw & was Informed of, and that it Contains the full substance of what he has to relate Respecting the said Transactions at Machias

Isaac Danks

1. Nova Scotia Papers, DAC.

2. Avery was from Norwich, Conn., bound home from Horton, Nova Scotia.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

Camp at Cambridge, July 10, 1775

Sir I arrived safely at this place on the 3d instant; – after a Journey attended with a good deal of Fatigue and retarded by necessary attentions to the successive Civilities which accompanied me in my whole route. Upon my arrival I immediately visited the several Posts occupied by our Troops, and as soon as the Weather permitted, reconnoitred those of the Enemy. I found the latter strongly entrenching on Bunkers Hill about a mile from Charlestown, and advanced about half a mile from the place of the last Action, with their Centries advanced about 150 Yards on this side the narrowest part of the neck leading from this place to Charles Town. Their floating Batteries lay in Mystick River, near their Camp, and a twenty Gun Ship below the Ferry place between Boston and Charles Town. They have also a Battery on Copse Hill, on the Boston side, which much annoyed our Troops in the late Attack. Upon Roxbury Neck they are also deeply entrenched and strongly fortified. Their advanced Guard 'till last Saturday, occupied Brown's Houses, about a Mile from Roxbury Meeting House and twenty rods from their Lines: But at that time a party from General Thomas's Camp surprized the Guard, drove them in and burnt the Houses.

The Bulk of their Army commanded by General Howe, lays on Bunker's Hill, and the remainder on Roxbury neck, except the light Horse, and a few Men in the Town of Boston. On our side we have thrown up Intrechments on Winter and Prospect Hills, the Enemy's Camp in full view, at the distance of little more than a mile. Such intermediate points, as would admit a Landing, I have since my arrival taken care to strengthen down to Sewall's Farms where a strong Intrenchment has been thrown up. At Roxbury General Thomas has thrown up a Strong Work on the Hill, about two hundred Yards above the Meeting House, which with the Brokenness of the Ground and Rocks, have made the Pass very secure. The Troops raised in New Hampshire with a Regiment from Rhode Island occupy Winter Hill. A Part of those from Connecticut under General Putnam are on Prospect Hill. The Troops in this Town are entirely of the Massachusetts: The remainder of the Rhode Island Men, at Sewalls Farm. Two Regiments of Connecticut and nine of the Massachusetts are at Roxbury. The residue of the Army, to the Number of about seven hundred, are posted in several small Towns along the Coasts, to prevent the depredations of the Enemy: Upon the whole I think myself authorized to say, that considering the great extent of Line and the nature of the Ground, we are as well secured, as could be expected in so short a time and under the disadvantages we labour. These consist in a Want of Engineers to construct proper Works and direct the Men; a Want of Tools and sufficient Number of Men to man the Works in case of an Attack. You will observe by the Proceedings of the Council of War, which I have the Hónor to enclose, that it is our unanimous Opinion to hold and defend these Works, as long as possible. The Discouragement it would give the Men and its contray Effect on the Ministerial Troops thus to abandon our Incampment in their Face, formed with so much Labour and expence; added to

the certain Destruction of a considerable and valuable extent of Country, and the uncertainty of finding a place in all respects so capable of making a stand are leading reasons for this Determination. At the same time we are very sensible of the Difficulties which attend the Defence of Lines of so great extent, and the Dangers which may ensue from such a Division of the Army. . . .

We labour under great Disadvantages for want of Tents, for tho' they have been help'd by a collection of Sails from the Seaport Towns, the Number is yet far short of our Necessities

Having ordered the Commanding Officer at Roxbury to give me the earliest Intelligence of every Motion of the Enemy, by Land or Water, discoverable from the Heights of his Camp, I this instant, as I was closing my Letter received the enclosed from his Brigade Major. The Design of this Motion I know not; it may be to make a Diversion somewhere along the Coast; it may be for New York, or it may be practised as a Deception on Us. I thought it not improper however to mention the Matter to you: I have done the same to the Commanding Officer at New York, and I shall let it be known by the Committee of Safety here, that the Intelligence may be communicated, as they see best, to the Sea Coast of this Government. I have the Honor, etc.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 320–329.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

Camp at Cambridge, July 10, 1775

. . . Our lines on Winter and Prospect Hills, and those of the enemy on Bunker's Hill, are in full view of each other, a mile distant, our advance guards much nearer, and the sentries almost near enough to converse; at Roxbury and Boston Neck it is the same. Between these, we are obliged to guard several of the places at which the enemy may land. They have strongly fortified, or will fortify in a few days, their camps and Bunker's Hill; after which, and when their newly landed troops have got a little refreshed, we shall look for a visit, if they mean, as we are told they do, to come out of their lines. Their great command of artillery, and adequate stores of powder, give them advantages, which we have only to lament the want of.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 329.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN THOMAS TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir a master of a vesel that Came out of Boston Saturday Night in order to Take Charge of a vesel at Soneington in Coniticut Loaded with Malases to Purseed to New York as he Saith his acquaintances in the Country Inform that he has bin a Suspected Person & I Think it my Duty to forward him to your Exelencye for your Exemiation I am Sir [&c.]

Jn^o Thomas

Roxbury Camp July the 10 D: 1775

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston 10th July 1775 –

Sir/ I yesterday received your Letter, respecting the Floating Battery Boats, and shall be obliged to you, for the Several Articles, you promise to provide them; I have Ordered what may be otherwise necessary, to fit them for Service.

I am to acquaint you that the Commissary will clear the Gunner of the *Preston*, if he will procure him receipts from the Persons he delivered the Stores to; which is always Customary on those occasions, and without which the Commissary will be left in the same dilemma the Gunner Complains of; if those receipts are in future taken there will be no difficulty.

I am with Regard and Esteem. Sir &ca.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, JULY 10, 1775

Newport, July 10.

Last Monday [July 3] the two men of war on this station sail'd to convoy two sloops bound to Boston; one of which sloops Capt. [William] Dennis, was loaded with flour, &c. from Philadelphia, the other a whaling sloop, which arrived here a few days before, her oil having been taken out, and we hear a load of rum, sugar and melasses *taken* out of a number of small craft, going up the river, was put in. The men of war accompanied the sloops as far as they thought proper, and returned into this harbour on Tuesday night.

Wednesday morning the *King-fisher* sloop of war, Capt. [James] Montague, was tow'd into this harbour, and immediately after coming to anchor, she was thrown upon a very rank careen, by which 'twas supposed she had met with some misfortune the night before, as she was seen up the sound, and many cannon were heard in the night, and we are assured a certain Doctor in this town, went on board said ship several times from her arrival till Friday, to take care of some wounded men.¹

Friday in the afternoon the *Rose*, *Swan*, and *King-Fisher* went round the north end of Connnicut, that night anchored near Dutch Island, and next morning went without the Light-House; the *King-fisher*, 'tis supposed, is gone to Boston; the other two returned to this harbour in the afternoon.

1. The Journal of the *Kingsfisher* records no such incident.

ISAAC SEARS TO SILAS DEANE, CONNECTICUT DELEGATE TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

My Dear Sir, –

New Haven, July 10, 1775.

I am now to inform you that there is a 20 gun ship and two tenders in the Sound. They have begun their work, that is, to intercept the trade of our vessels. Yesterday they run a vessel ashore off Seabrook, which had duck, &c. on board, but [this] was hove overboard before the Barges boarded her. She is now south from this harbor. Capt. Trobrige told me that a man of character and truth told him, that he saw a brigantine off Watch Hill engage one of the sloops of war, and it appeared the brigg got the better till she lost her boom; they then parted and



John Harrison's Marine Timekeeper (or chronometer) No. 4. Front and rear views.

the sloop got into Newport, and could but just keep above water, and was obliged to heave down immediately. I think it shows the necessity of a small squadron to be fitted out immediately. The adjournment of the [New York] Congress has given me an opportunity to be here. I am &c.

Isaac Sears

1. *Connecticut Historical Society Collection*, II, 284.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 10th [1775]

Resolved, That Emanuel Eyres immediately Build a Boat, agreeable to the Model produced by him this day.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 285.

“COPY OF A LETTER TO MR. [PHILIP] STEPHENS, DATED AT PHILADELPHIA
THE 10TH JULY 1775” ¹

[Extract]

How hazardous soever my writing may prove at this time when Copies of Letters of Intelligence for perquisite sake are granted by Office Clerks to the great prejudice of His Majesty's faithful Subjects Residents on this Continent, who become a sacrifice to the resentment & chastisement of a Licentious & Rebellious Mob, yet I cant longer sit still & behold my royal Master his Lords & Parliament branded by every Reptile with the most Opprobrious Epithets; Majesty has fallen so low as to be known by no other Appellation but that of a perjured Tyrant, a Popish Villan, who has broke his Corronation Oath, add to which their wish to have him here, & swear they would shorten his Ambition of Despotism By the head, had this been the Language of thoughtless Mob it may be imputed to gross Ignorance, but proceeding from the lips of those who call themselves the better Sort, must make the feelings of a person who has been a Servant of the Crown unhappy. —

More of their barbarous & savage Jargon I shall not take up your time with, but signify as many of their Schemes & Intentions as are come to my knowledge, with a view that my Lords of the Admiralty may pursue such Measures as may counteract their diabolical Machinations, which breath neither more nor less than the avowed Principle of Republicanism; In this System of Politicks I fear they are abetted by some unfriendly Europen Power, as they boast that two of the greatest Powers of Europe have offered to supply them with Men & Necessaries of War, this in a great measure am induced to believe from the great quantity of Gun Powder smuggled lately into this Province, this Powder is sent over Land to the Rebels of Connecticut who escort it to their Brethern of Massachusetts Bay; At this time the Congress assembled here have issued Orders for building a number of Floating Batteries, constructed like Rowboats, each to carry One Cannon of 24 pound Shott in their Bows,² these are to lie in mouths of Creeks out of sight of any of His Majts Ships that may come up the River & endeavour the sinking them, some of those Floats are launched this day but continue building many more, as well several Armed Vessells of sufficient force to attack in a Body

any of His Majts 20 Gunships, Sloops of War &c. that may hover about these Coasts

I am often perswaded that if Ships of War had been stationed here & some cruizing off the Capes of Delawar for the last four Months past, the Magazines of this Town & Neighbourhood would not be so full of Warlike Stores, they dread the arrival of Ships of War & are at this juncture in consultation how to form Impediments by sinking Hulks &c in the most passable Channels of this River, the Islands are to have Batteries on them, as well as the Banks and Wharffs in and near this Town; . . .

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, LC Transcript.
2. The writer was mistaken in thinking the Continental Congress had ordered the building of the vessels of war he described. That action had been taken by the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee 10 July 1775

On Motion, *Resolved* that for the future every Master of a Vessell reporting his Cargo before the Committee, Shall also at the same time declare on Oath the Quantity of Gunpowder he hath onboard, or hath Imported this present Voyage.

1. Balt. Com., LC.

MASTER'S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Mercury* ¹

Rem[ark]s &c Monday 10 July 1775 [York River, Virginia] 4 A M Little wind and fair at ¼ past weighed and Came to Sail at ½ past shortn to let the *Otters* Boat Com on bd Made Sail again past by His Majestys Sloop *Otter* at Anchor, at 8 point Comfort S W B S and the So[uth]ermost part of the Chary Stons E B S½, S, at ½past 10 Set Stearing Sails Modt and fair at Noon York Town W B N New point Comfort N N E old Do S B E Standing up to York Town

Little wind and fair W[eathe]r Sailing up York River at 3 P M Anchored (with the Bt Br and Veard to ½ a Cable) abreast of the Town of York found here His Majts Ship *Fowey* at ½ 3 Anchored here His Majts Sloop *Otter* at ½ past 4 Veared away and Moord Ship Bt Br to the S E and Smal Br to N W a Cable each way, Fooses point E S E the Flagstaff at York Town S½ W

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1866.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Scorpion*, JOHN TOLLEMACHE, COMMANDING ¹

Monday 10 July 1775 Cape Fear N W 12 Leags

at 8 AM saw a Sail in the NW Quarter, Wore & gave Chace Fir'd two 6 Pounders Shotted at the Chace. First and Middle parts Mode & Clear, latter Squally with Rain, at 3 PM Haul'd our Wind to the Noward Sounded, & Kd Ship Occasly in Stays Carried away the Mn Topsl Yard Empd getting another up

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

SIR JAMES WRIGHT, GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

No. 53

Savannah in Georgia the 10th of July 1775

My Lord Since Writing my Last of the 8th Inst. Capt. [Richard] Maitland Arrivd ² the Warlike Schooner fitted out as Mentioned before went to Sea and met with the Ship about 4 Leagues from the Bar Conductd her in & then took out all the Gun Powder on Board Amounting to about Six Tons as the Capt. tells me and which is now in the Hands of the Liberty People here who Forcibly Hold it against the Owners. The Capt. is going to make a Protest against them which if done before the Vessel (by which this is to go) Sails, I shall send Your Lordship a Copy of it for your more Particular Information. I am also to Acquaint Your Lordship that the *Sandwich* Packet Arrivd at Charles Town on the second Inst. When Your Lordship's Letters and those from Mr. Pownall & indeed every Letter directed to me both Public & Private was seized upon & opend in Charles Town & on the Evening of the 8th Inst. I receiv'd them seald up again by the Deputy Post Master General in Charles Town and Indors'd thus "Opened by the Committee of Inspection at Charles Town" G. Roupell . . .

Mr. [James] Habersham is gone to Philadelphia for the recovery of his Health and I begin to think a King's Governor has little or no business here.

1. *Collections of the Georgia Historical Society*, III, 194.

2. Ship *Phillipa*, Richard Maitland, master, 270 tons burden.

11 July

COLONEL JOSEPH TRUMBULL TO ELIPHALET DYER, A CONNECTICUT DELEGATE
TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Honed Sir:

Camp at Cambridge, 11th July 1775.

The General's Express that ought to have left this Four days ago, is not yet gone. I therefore set down to give you some description of our Situation here, & that of the Enemy. The Enemy are situated on Bunker & Breed's Hills, both on the Peninsula, where the late Town of Charlestown stood, & within reach, & under the Cover of the Guns from the Batterys in the Town of Boston & the Ships in the Harbour, & of a Number of Floating Battery's which they have Built, that carry 2 guns in their Bows, 2 in their Sterns, & one on each Side. Our People are Situated from Charles River, about 200 rods below [the] College, where we have a Redoubt, which begins the Line, then about 60 Rods from that, another Redoubt, & lines continued near 100 Rods – then at the Charlestown Road, on the West Side of the Road, at the foot of Prospect Hill, another Redoubt, & strong fortification. Then on Prospect Hill is Putnam's Post, a very strong fortification, then between that & Winter Hill, a Redoubt. – On Winter Hill a strong Citidale & Lines over to Charlestown Road to Mistick, – then in Mr. Temple's Pasture a strong Redoubt that commands to Mistick River. So that we have a compleat Line of Circumvallation, from Charles River to Mistick River, our Main Fortress on Prospect Hill, the Enemy's main Fortress on Bunker's Hill, within Cannon Shot of each other. A Hill between these two Posts a little to the Eastward of Prospect Hill, called Cobble Hill, I expect will

soon cause us a *Squabble* which shall have it, our People or their's; nor do I expect it will be many days before the Contest begins which will probably bring on a general Engagement. If they let us alone four or five days more, we shall be well prepared, & shant care how soon they come – the sooner the better. At Roxbury side, the Enemy have dug across the Neck & let the Water thro', & our People in Town have Intrenched across the outer end of the Neck, & are strongly Fortified there, & on the Hill by the Meeting House – so strong that I believe every man in Boston & at Bunker's & Breed's Hills must fall, before they could force a passage that way into the Country. Genl. [John] Burgoyne sent a Trumpet yesterday, with a letter to Genl. [Charles] Lee, wishing a composition of these unhappy Differences, &c. – & says the Parliament will certainly give up all Right or Pretense of Taxation, if that will do; & wishes a conference. This Letter is sent to Pro[vincial] Congress for their opinion, & further to appoint a Person [whom they] can confide in, to attend the Conference, & hear [what] passes, if they Judge it best to have a Conference. Majr. [Horatio] Gates is arrived & we are geting into order & regularity very fast. Last Night our People at Roxbury fired the remainder of Brown's Buildings on Boston Neck, & have drove the Enemy's Guards Back to their Lines. I am, most respectfully Yours,

Jos: Trumbull

Fessenden arrived Express from Philadelphia last night.

1. *Historical Magazine*, January, 1863, vol. VII, 22, 23.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE CAMP AT CAMBRIDGE, JULY 11, [1775]”¹

The enemy are situated on Bunker and Breed's hill, both on the Peninsula, where the late town of Charlestown stood, both within reach, and under the cover of the guns, from the batteries in the town of Boston, and the ships in the harbour and a number of floating batteries, which they have built, and carry two guns in their bows, two in their sterns, and one on each side.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, July 24, 1775.

JAMES WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS¹

[Extract]

Watertown, July 11, 1775

I always forgot to tell you I have seen your letter to [Elbridge] Gerry, expressing Mr. [Chistopher] Gadsden's opinion about fixing out armed vessels and setting up for a naval power.² I thought it very happy to have so great an authority confirming my own sentiments, and having proposed in [Provincial] Congress just such a project the beginning of the session, borrowed the letter to support it. But yet I have not been able to effect it. [John] Pickering and his politics, the want of faith and ardor in Gerry, &c., and above all the want of powder has prevented it. The last is an objection, though I think it would be like planting corn. Ten very good going sloops, from 10 to 16 guns, I am persuaded would clear our coasts. What would 40 such be to the Continent. Such a determination might make a good figure on your Journals.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 81, 82.

2. See Adams to Gerry, June 7, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Tuesday, July 11, 1775, Afternoon

Ordered, That Colonel [Benjamin] Lincoln bring in a Resolve determining what is best to be done with the Whale-Boats.

Colonel Lincoln, agreeable to appointment, brought in the following Resolve relative to Whale-Boats, which was accepted.

Whereas, the Congress some time past directed and empowered, in the absence of Captain Joshua Davis, Captain Edmund Soper to take charge of a number of Whale-Boats, then lying in the River at Braintree, purchased by said Davis for the use of the Colony; and as he hath procured and brought there a very considerable number more, which require his care and inspection, and as one person is sufficient to have the care of the whole of them; therefore,

Resolved, That as Capt. Davis is now returned, Capt. Edmund Soper be excused from any care of said Boats, until further orders; that he give information to said Davis where they are lodged; and if he hath delivered any of them to the order of the officers in the Army, to whom they were delivered, in order to his receiving them into his possession, as soon as the publick service will admit of it.

1. Force, comp. *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1505–1507, from Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

JOSIAH QUINCY TO JOHN ADAMS, A MASSACHUSETTS DELEGATE IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

[Braintree] July 11 1775.

Whilst we jointly mourn, the Loss of a *Warren*, and a *Quincy*,² who have perished in this Storm of Tyranny and oppression, that almost overwhelms our american Ship of State; may that God, in whose Hands our Breath is and whose [care?] are all our Ways, graciously preserve the Lives of our remaining skilfull Pilots; and enable them to steer the shattered Bark in the *Harbor of Peace Liberty and Safety!* – So well constructed a Ship, and so richly laden ought not to become the Prize of *Robbers and Pirates*: – Before that should happen, were all the Crew of my Mind, we would maintain the *Conflict* to the last Man: – However, if General [Charles] Lee's Judgment may be relied upon, the Ship is in no great Danger of being finally lost; for he last year publicly gave it as his Opinion, that if the americans gained the first Victory, it would prove decisive; Whereas, their Enemies might gain several, and be, at last, defeated: – Hitherto they have certainly failed of Success; for, altho' they obliged our Troops to retreat, from the Hill in Charlestown, where they were imprudently directed to begin an Intrenchment; yet, their Valor was invincible, whilst their Ammunition lasted; and they killed, and wounded so many of their Enemies, that a few more such Victories would certainly ruin them – in short my Friend, had we a sufficient supply of Powder and battering Cannon, such is the Spirit and Intrepidity of our Countrymen, we should very soon, and with little or no Hazard, lock up this Harbor and make both Seamen and Soldiers our prisoners at Discretion.

My Head has been teeming with Projects of this kind ever since you left us; and had one of them been timely seconded by the Comtee of Safety, we should (I believe) happily have saved the further Effusion of human Blood. –

You know, my Situation gives me an Oppy. to see, and observe every thing that passes up and down the Harbor: – About a Week or 10 Days after the Battle at Lexington, I was informed that a large Transport was ordered to take, on board from the Castle a 1000 or 1200 bars. of Powder, and 20 or 30 Pieces of brass Cannon 24 & 42 pounders; with which She fell down between the Castle and Spectacle Islnd. and there anchored under the Protection of a 70 gun Ship: A few Days afterwards the Man of war was ordered to Sail for New York, upon which I informed the Comtee. of Safety of the Situation & Circumstances of this Store Ship & her Cargo; that now was the time to secure a sufficient Supply of Powder & heavy Cannon, by seizing the Ship as soon as the *Asia* left her: – They seemed to be sensible of the importance of the Object; but such a complicated Body was too slow in its Motion to improve the lucky Minutes and catch such an *inestimable Prize*: for about a Week after the *Asia* sailed, and the very morning of the Day that the late worthy Dr. Warren, at the Head of a sub Comtee. came to take a View of the Transport, and determine upon the Mode of Surprizing Her, another 70 Gun Ship anchored just by her: – The letting such a favorable Oppo. slip unimproved, verifys a very just tho' trite observation that the military Department ought always to be under one Direction; and I devotedly pray, for my dear Country's sake, we may have no further Proofs of it.

The Inconveniences, not to say Distresses, in Consequence of a total stop to our Navigation, will, I fear, soon become insupportable, unless an adiquate Remedy can be found: – Permit me (with Freedom) to communicate my Thoughts to you upon the Subject.

I am unable to conceive, any Method so likely to secure our Navigation (Coast wise) as Row Gallies: They are calculated to go in shoal Water, and navigated with many Men, are armed with Swivels, and one large battering Cannon in the Bow of each: By this they can keep off any Vessel of one Tier of Guns: – One such Vessel (I apprehend) might securely convoy 10 or a Dozn. provision Vessels, from Harbor to Harbor, in the summer Season.

As the whole Continent is so firmly united, why might not a Number of Vessels of War be fitted out, & judiciously stationed, so, as to intercept & prevent any Supplies going to our Enemies; and consequently, unless they can make an Impression Inland they must leave the Country or starve.

Floating Batteries is another Mode of anoying our Enemies which (I apprehend) might be successfully carried into Execution: – I have in general a clear Idea of their Construction, and intend, if I can procure a Workman, to form a Model of one, but every Scheme of this Nature depends upon a full supply of Ammunition and heavy Cannon; which I hope the Wisdom of the Continent will soon be able to provide.

Our Enemies (since the Action at Charlestown) are quite silent, save, now and then, a Carcase, or a 24 pounder: Whether, they have recd. some disagreeable News, or their repeated Losses have discouraged them; or they are preparing to give us a direful Blast, is, at present, problematical; however, this is certain, they are diabolically oppressive, & cruel to those they have in their Power: – Poor young Master [James] Lovel, (if not already) will probably soon fall a Victim, to their insatiable Thirst for Blood, on Accot. of the Contents of some Lrs. from

him, which were found in Dr. Warren's Packets, & which, they say, *contain Matters of a treasonable Nature*.

I have only Room to add, my respectfull Regards to good Dr. F[rankli]n, and to your worthy Brethern, the Delegates from this Colony; which please to make acceptable to them, and believe me to be, [&c.]

an Old Friend

1. Adams Family Papers, MassHS.

2. Dr. Joseph Warren, killed on Bunker Hill, and Josiah Quincy, Jr., who had died on ship-board approaching Boston harbor, the week after Lexington.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Senegal*, WILLIAM DUDDINGSTON,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 [King Road, Boston Harbor]

Tuesday 11 9 A M fired a Gun & md Sigl for weighing at 10 Weighed & came to Sail – *Diana, Eagle, Lion, Brilliant* Transports, *Polly Britania & Sarrah* Sloops under Convoy ² at noon Anchored in King Road in 7 fam water.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/885.

2. All bound to the Bay of Fundy for provisions and wood.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 11th [July 1775]

The *Senegal* and Transports sailed with Orders to proceed to Fox Islands, Annapolis, Lunenbourg, or any other place on the Coast, where, upon consulting with the Agent, Wood could most readily be procured.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 138, MassHS Transcript.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

The person that commanded the sloop [*Enterprise*] on Lake Champlain has left here.² It is more than probable that I shall not be able to procure at Ticonderoga such a person as I should wish to command her. I entreat you therefore to send me with all possible dispatch a person fit to confer such an important command upon. You will please to transmit me an account of the agreement you may enter into with him.

Albany, July 11th, 1775.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, II, 11.

2. Captain John Prout Sloan; see muster roll, July 1, 1775.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT OF THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Sir,

Albany July 11th 1775.

I have the Honour to advise you that I arrived here on Sunday [July 9] at Noon, since which Time I have been closely employed in the Duties of my office.

It is with Pleasure I remark that Intelligence from various Quarters indicates a friendly Disposition in the Indians towards us. No Efforts however are wanting

on the Part of our Enemies to change these Sentiments in the Savages to Resentment & Hostility, an Evil highly incumbent on me to guard against, and of which the Come of this Place have so just a Sense that they pay it the closest Attention; whilst they look up to that respectable Body which represents the Continent of America for the Line of their future Conduct in this delicate & important Matter.

The unhappy Controversy which has subsisted between the officers at Ticonderoga relative to the Command has, I am informed thrown every Thing into vast Confusion. Troops have been dismissed – others refuse to serve, if this or that Man commands – the Sloop is without either Captain or Pilot, both of which are dismissed, or come away.² I shall hurry up there much sooner than the necessary Preparations here would otherwise admit, that I may attempt to introduce some Kind of Order & Discipline among them.

I am this Moment favoured with a Letter from Col. [Benjamin] Hinman and sundry Returns, Copies of which I enclose. You will perceive by the Return No 1 that on the 7th Inst. they had only one Barrel [of] Flour at Ticonderoga, twenty at Crown Point, and twenty at Fort George. By Number 2 & 3 it appears that about four Hundred and seventy seven Barrels of Flour, have been sent up amounting to about ninety five Thousand four Hundred Rations, and that about twenty Thousand remain, seventy five Thousand are expended. From the same Return it appears that about sixty five Thousand Rations of Pork have been also expended, exclusive of thirty five fat Oxen. Hence a very considerable Waste or Embezzlement has taken Place. Permit me here, Sir, to urge the Necessity of the Appointment I recommended, in my Letter of the 28th June as indispensably Necessary, to carry on the Service with Propriety & economy, and Certainty; to which I must add another, that of Muster Masters & Deputies, without which such a scene of Confusion & Controversy must unavoidably take Place in the Payment of the Troops, as will be beyond the Power of the most able Accountant to certify. These officers are so necessary that I should not have hesitated a Moment to have made the Appointments had I not received your Orders to the contrary.

Give me Leave, Sir, to request a Copy of such Articles of War as the Congress may have adopted. The scandalous Want of Subordination, and the Low Treatment which I am informed some Officers give, & others receive merit exemplary Punishment, as they are injurious to the Army, destructive to the Service, and disgraceful to those in Command. –

Govr [Jonathan] Trumbul has honoured me with a Letter, in which he advises me that no more than forty Half Barrels of Powder can be sent from the Colony of Connecticut. That from Pennsylvania is not yet arrived, and you will perceive there is very little with the Troops. Should Govr [Guy] Carlton know our true Situation with Respect to this Article, it would be very easy for him to use it to our Disadvantage Govr. Trumbul will send me fifteen Thousand Pounds in Money, which is so much wanted here, that the spirited Come of this Place have been under the Necessity of emitting one Thousand Pounds in small Bills

as a circulating Medium to pay Troops and others employed in the Service, which, altho it passes as currently as Bank Bills in the best of Times, I shall order it to be called in, as soon as I am enabled to do it, least it should open a Door to Fraud and Confusion.

As the Transportation of Salted Meat is attended with the very heavy Expende of a sixty five Mile Land Carriage to Fort George; before I left New York I ordered one Hundred Head of fat Cattle to be purchased in Connecticut, and to be drove up to Ticonderoga, where there is a sufficiency of Pasture for them.

I enclose you Sir an Extract of a Paper received from Govr Trumbull relative to the Temper of Coghnewaga Indians marked No 4

The Paper No 5 will shew you how very weak we are with Respect to Vessels for transporting Troops across the Lake, or even with those necessary to keep the Command of the Lake in Case Mr Carlton should provide himself with a naval Force. I hope however soon after my Arrival at Ticonderoga to be in a better Condition for maintaining the Advantage we have acquired.

I hope to be at Ticonderoga on Friday or Saturday from whence I shall do myself the Honour to transmit you a full Account of the State of the Troops, and of every other Matter which may be necessary for your Information. I am Sir [&c.]

Ph Schuyler.

[Endorsed] Read [in Congress]; July 17th 1775.

1. Papers CC, 153, I, 18, NA.

2. The Continental sloop *Enterprise*.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

Gentlemen:

Albany July 11, 1775

General [Philip] Schuyler has desired me to acquaint you of the state and situation of the Army in the Northern Department. Six days since, when I left Crown Point, there were at that post near three hundred men, without employ, having received no orders to fortify; at Ticonderoga about six hundred in the same state; at Fort George, upwards of three hundred men; some few employed in building batteaus, and on scouting parties. Very little provision at any of the places; none made for the sick, which are daily increasing; only five hundred weight of gunpowder at all the places, and no Engineer or Gunner at either. Great want of discipline and regularity among the troops. On the other hand, the enemy at St. John's indefatigable in fortifying, and collecting timber (supposed) for building a vessel. The disposition of the Canadians and Indians, from the latest accounts, very favourable. A promise has, however, been extorted from the latter to defend Governor [Guy] Carleton if attacked, in Montreal; this of course.

By giving up the command, I have been prevented receiving regular intelligence as heretofor; the latest near twenty days since.

I have received no answer to my letter of the 13th June, by Captain [Eleazer] Oswald. Can only add, I am, with the greatest respect, Gentlemen [&c.]

Benedict Arnold

P.S. I had forgot to inform you my Regiment is disbanded.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1646, 1647.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF NEW YORK ¹

At a meeting of the Committee of Safety at the City Hall of the City of New-York, on Tuesday, the 11th day of July, 1775 at 9 o'clock, A.M.

A Letter from Gen. [David] Wooster was read, and is in the words following, viz:

Camp near New York, July 11, 1775

Sir Peter Herring the man who last night assisted in conveying on board the *Asia*, man of war one of the prisoners sent here by the Continental Congress, is now under guard at our camp. I would beg the immediate advice of the Committee of Safety concerning what is best to be done with him his brother is willing and desirous that he should be sent away somewhere, that he may be out of the way of the enraged people; some have proposed that he be sent on board the *Asia*; others think it best to have him sent to Connecticut with Gov. [Philip] Skeene, who will go off as soon as this matter can be determined. I hope, therefore, to be assisted with your advice as speedily as possible, and am, sir [&c.]

David Wooster

To Peter V. B. Livingston, Esq.

Thereupon, an Order to Gen. Wooster was made in the words following, to wit:

Sir Immediately on the receipt of this you are required to send the body of Peter Herring, under safe and secure guard, before the Committee of Safety, at the City Hall of the city of New York, for which this shall be a sufficient warrant. By order of the Committee of Safety.

An answer to General Wooster's letter was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Committee of Safety, New York, July 11th, 1775.

Sir: We this instant received your favour, and took the same into consideration. We think it highly necessary that Mr. Herring should be brought before us in order to be examined touching his accomplices, for which purpose we have enclosed an order of this Board. We are, Sir, [&c.]

To General David Wooster, at the Camp.

P.S. If there are any witnesses, please to send them also.

Ordered, That a copy of said letter and order be signed by the Chairman, and sent immediately.

A Letter from Abraham Lott, Esq., Agent for His Majesty's ships in this port, was read, and is in the words following, to wit:

Gentlemen Having received a demand from John Collins, Esq., Commander of His Majesty's Ship *Nautilus*, now at Sandy-Hook, for 4000 pounds bread, 300 pounds beef, 500 pounds of pork, 12 bushels peas, 200 pounds butter, 200 pounds cheese, [and] 200 gallons rum, You will be pleased to signify your opinion, whether or no I shall supply the provisions, &c., pursuant to the demand. I am authorized to assure the honourable the Committee that the *Nautilus* is not going to Boston, but to the southward.

I am, Gentlemen [&c.]

Abraham Lott ²

To the Honourable the Committee of the New York Provincial Congress.

Ordered, That Abraham Lott, Esq., be at liberty to supply the quantities of provisions and rum above-mentioned to the ship *Nautilus* for the use of the said ship's company.

A letter from William Hooper and Joseph Hewes, Esquires, was read, and is in the words following, to wit:

[Here is inserted their letter of July 8, 1775]

An Answer to the Letter of William Hooper and Joseph Hewes, Esquires, was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

Committee of Safety, New-York, July 11th, 1775.

Gentlemen: We have received your favour of the 8th of the last month,³ which came to our hands last night. Our Congress have adjourned for a fortnight from this day, and appointed us a Committee of Safety to act during the recess. We beg leave to assure you, that we will do every thing in our power relative to the schooner which you have described. We are, with much respect, Gentlemen, [&c.]

To William Hooper and Joseph Hewes, Esqs. of Philadelphia.

Ordered, That a copy be signed by the Chairman and transmitted.

Peter Herring being brought before the committee, Gen. [David] Wooster charged and accused him of being aiding and assisting to one Lundin⁴ yesterday evening in making his escape from the confinement he was under by order of the Continental Congress. Several witnesses were examined as to the charge, in the presence of the said Peter Herring.

Resolved, That it fully appears to this Committee, by the testimony of sundry witnesses, as also by the examination and confession of Peter Herring, of the city of New York, that the said Peter Herring was aiding and assisting to one Lundin, yesterday evening, in making his escape from the confinement he was in, by order of the Continental Congress; and the said Peter Herring assisted him to get on

board the *Asia* man of war, and was the means of getting him on board of the said ship.

Resolved and ordered, therefore, That the said Peter Herring be sent, under such guard as Gen. Wooster shall appoint, to Connecticut, to be there confined in close goal at the Continental charge, until he shall be thence discharged by the Continental Congress.

A Letter from Burnet Miller, Chairman of the Committee of Southampton, was read, and is in the words following, to wit.⁵

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 71–75.
2. As the *Nautilus* anchored in Sandy Hook at 11:30 on the morning of July 9 (PRO, Admiralty 51/629), it is not likely that Captain John Collins's requisition reached Abraham Lott before the evening of July 10; hence his letter to the Committee of Safety probably was written on the morning of the day it was received.
3. The letter was mis-dated, and should have been July 8, 1775. This is evidenced by the comment that Governor Martin's intercepted letter previously had been sent to the New York Provincial Congress by the Philadelphia Committee. That communication was read in Provincial Congress, June 27, 1775.
4. Lundin, or Lundy, was a civilian taken at the same time as Governor Philip Skene. For a further account, see *Journal of the Continental Congress*, July 5, 1775.
5. See Burnet Miller's letter of July 5, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 11 [1775]

1st. *Resolved*. That Messrs. Robert White and Owen Biddle, do provide a Sail for one of the Boats now building under their direction.

The Committee appointed for the Building Boats and constructing the Machines for the defence of the River, Report that they have been Viewing a number of Pine Loggs, which they think will be proper for the Service.

2nd. *Resolved*, That the said Committee do purchase the above mentioned Loggs.

The President ² delivered to Messrs. Robert White and Owen Biddle, his order on Captain [Benjamin] Loxley for such Guns and Military Stores as they may have occasion for.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 285.

2. The president of the committee was Dr. Benjamin Franklin.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Special Meeting of the Committe at the Court House 11 July 1775

Information having been made to The Committee that the Ship *Totness* was arrived from Liverpoole below Annapolis, having onboard Salt Mr Thomas Place one of the Consignees attended the Committee and declared that he and his Partner Mr Ashburner had reced Letters from Mr Gildart advising them that he intended dispatching the *Totnes[s]* to them in 12 days from the time he wrote, Ballasted with Salt and that they daily expected her to arrive, when he intended laying her Pápers before this Committee; And he further said that he had been informed the said Ship was arrived and aground on the Two Sisters but that he

had not much confidence in the report. – Further Information being made that some [of] Mr Gildarts Friends had sent a Boat down to meet the *Totnes[s]*, The Committee thought proper to send for Mr Johnson Gildart, who attended, and declared that he had given a Pilot who was going down with the *Johnson* a Letter to deliver Capt Warring in case he met him, instructing him to proceed immediately to Hallifax and not to attempt coming up here. – Being again informed that the Boat who carried the Letter was returned, the Committee sent two of their Members to enquire for the Skipper and bring him before them, which was accordingly done & [he] immediately attended & declared he had been sent down by Mr Johnson Gildart with Letters to the Ship *Johnson*, and that at the same time he had given the Letter abovementioned for Capt Warring of the *Totnes[s]* in case he should meet her, and that on his return back from the Ship *Johnson* he saw a Ship onground on the Three Sisters which he made for, and found her to be the *Totness* and delivered the Captain his Letters, who replied that he must come or send to Baltimore for further Orders – On this Information Mr Johnson Gildart was sent for, who attended and engaged that the Ship should come to Baltre and wait the determination of The Committee, and accordingly gave Orders in Writing to the Captain for that purpose

1. Balt. Com., LC.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 York Town SW Gloucester Point No off shore 1½ Mile
Tuesday 11 at 3 PM Anchored here his Majesty's ship *Mercury* And *Otter* sloop

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

"A MIDSHIPMAN ON BOARD THE *Otter* TO A FRIEND IN LONDON" ¹

July 11 [1775] off Cape Charles,

a boy from the *Jersey* came on board, with an account that the Rebel army, which is come down to York, in Virginia, had taken our men, who were on shore, prisoners. Upon this, our Lieutenant ordered me off to enquire into the matter. I walked up [to] their camp, which consisted of a few pales covered with leaves, and found two hundred rebels round our men, whom they had been informed belonged to the *Otter*; and at my arrival vowed, that if they caught any belonging to the *Fowey* man of war, they would never let them go. I enquired into the reason why they detained the men, and was asked to whom they belonged; I answered to the King. The Captain of the Guard then asked me if I belonged to the *Otter* and if any of the men or officers would venture on shore again. I told him, that both officers and men would, if they were ordered, come on shore to any duty. They said they hoped they would behave themselves well, or they would get something they did not like. I replied that if saying they belonged to the King was impertinent, it was the answer they must always expect. Thus you see that the people of York, in Virginia, are worse than at Boston.

1. *London Morning Post and Daily Advertiser*, August 24, 1775.



tion from a larger map, showing the Atlantic coastline from Delaware Bay to Albemarle Sound, 1775.

12 July

MEMOIRS OF MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH ¹

[Roxbury, July 12, 1775]

. . . in the forenoon, Col. [John] Greeton with 136 men, went on to Long-Island, and burnt the barns; the flames communicated to the house, and all were consumed. An armed schooner and several barges put off after the Americans, and some of the ships of war near the island, cannonaded them. The detachment made their way for the shore, and narrowly escaped being taken. One man on the shore who came to the assistance of the detachment was killed: it was supposed that several of the British were killed and wounded. The same day six transports, appearing to be full of men, arrived in Boston harbour.

1. William Abbatt, ed., *Memoirs of Major-General William Heath By Himself* (New York, 1901), 17. Hereafter cited as Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAMBRIDGE, JULY 12, 1775”.¹

Philadelphia, July 26.

The day before yesterday we went to Chelsea, famous for the battle of Noddle-Island near to it; while we were on Powder-Horn Hill, back of Chelsea, we saw a skirmish between a party of our people (120 in number) who went in whale boats, to an island about 12 miles from Boston, and burnt a large quantity of hay, which was put up into bundles by the Regulars, and intended to be sent to Boston for their horses. A great number of marines, in schooners, men of war's boats, and two ships of war kept up a constant fire on our men, while they remained on the Island; but this did not prevent them from destroying the hay. The schooner and boats endeavoured to cut off their retreat, which brought on a very warm engagement, in which we had one killed and one wounded. . . .

We have just got over land from Cape-Cod a large fleet of whale boats, in a day or two we shall man them in Cambridge and Mystick rivers, and try to keep our enemies boats from insulting us.

1. *New York Gazette*, July 31, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, July 12, 1775

The Committee appointed to consider a Resolve of the Committee of Safety, relative to Mr. Winslow's employing one William Lightly to carry a load of Molasses to New-York, &c., reported the following Letter to Governour [Jonathan] Trumbull, which was accepted, and ordered to be authenticated, and sent forward:

May it please your Honour:

The Brigantine *Nancy*, now in the harbour of Stonington, in Connecticut, being laden with molasses, the property of the late Joshua Winslow, of Boston, a noted and active friend to Administration, which, as we are well informed, is now directed to be conveyed to New York, and from thence, as we conjecture from sundry suspicious circumstances, to be sent to Boston; the master who has undertaken this business being now in custody, having given the information before mentioned; the Congress of the Massachusetts

Bay beg leave to observe to your Honour, whether prudence and good policy do not suggest to detain said ship and cargo, or such part of it as belongs to said Winslow, for the use of the Colonies, rather than to suffer them to fall into the hands of General [Thomas] Gage, where they will be improved to the support of our enemies, and to augment the distress of these Colonies.

We have the honour to be, &c.

To the Honourable Governor Trumbull.

Resolved, That said William Lightly be confined in Concord Jail, and that Mr. Davis be dismissed; and that Mr. [Jerathmiel] Woodbridge bring in a Resolve for this purpose.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1507, 1508, from Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Senegal*, WILLIAM DUDDINGSTON,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775

[King Road, Boston Harbor]

Wednesday 12 at 2 A M came on bd a man who made his escape from the rebels, taken some time since from the *Falcon*, & gave Intelligence of 500 Rebels in 100 Whale Boats taken the Inhabitants & Cattle off Long Isld at 8 sent the Man to the Adml. at 1 P M a Number of men appeared on Long Isld – made towards & set fire to the Hous We kept a Continual fire for ten minutes till they Left the Isld sent the Boat mand & armd to intercept them, at 6 fired a Gun a Sigl to weigh

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/885.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 12th [July 1775]

The Rebels landed on Long Island last night, took off the little stock thereon (together with 19 Haymakers), and they being observed to be upon the Island again about Noon (when the Admiral himself happened to be on Board the *Boyne*), the *Senegal* fired at them and all the Boats of the Squadron with the *Lively's* Tender immediately pursued and drove them into Shoal Water where they escaped; but the Kings Boats came near enough to fire at them several times, and the Admiral was afterwards informed the Rebels had two men Killed and several wounded.

However they had already set fire to the Houses and Barns on the Islands which were unavoidably destroyed. And it was impossible to prevent this without employing constantly Guards of Soldiers on the Islands, and a number of small Vessels armed in the passages adjoining to the Main, which last, if the preservation of what was on the Island had been an Object, our small naval force would not admit of. Indeed, according to this plan, it would have required our whole Force in Detachments to secure all the Islands from Depredation, which their vicinity to the Main left them open to with very little trouble to the Rebels. And these excursions were always conducted with such Secresy and Dispatch that the Flames were generally the first Notice of their Intentions.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 138, 139, MassHS Transcript.

ALEXANDER BRYMER TO CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN ¹

Dear Sir,

Boston 12th July 1775

Letters from Quebec informing me that there was more shipping there 10th Ulto than wou'd carry off the Produce of the current Year effectually prevented sending your Ship the *Peggy*; she was to have sailed the Day after I received these Letters & had her Pilot engaged & on Board. – I judged it best to detain her a few days from a certain Persuasion of sending by her Certificates on the Treasury for the Amount of her whole Cargo, but in this am likewise disappointed & was not till Yesterday discovered that the Number of Blls exceeded the Invoices by Eighteen, for which no Invoice can be found & will occasion a thorough overhaul of the whole Cargo, which will take up a great Deal of Time & be attended with much Trouble & on the whole have concluded to dispatch her to you & take the chance of an Opportunity to send the Certificates for the Cargo on the Treasury. –

As the Cargo has been appraised, the Wheat a 5/4d p Bushel, fine flour 18/ pC, spfine do 20/ & the Indian Corn at 3/4 I cou'd not possibly obtain Freight; I therefore solicited that the Warrants on the Treasury shou'd be paid into my Hands, which is accordingly to be done & you will of Course have the Power of Payment in your own Hands when you are furnished with them, which I shall take Care not to lose sight of till possessed. – I have had ten Times more Trouble with this Cargo than if it had been consigned to me, for as you sent the ship to my Address I have been the acting Person in the Settlement of the Cargo & have done everything even to casting & settling the Invoices, none of which were summed up. – This I mention because I think I have a Right to charge Commission on the Cargo which wou'd never be settled without some Person's interfering, & no one cou'd with so much Propriety as myself. – This you'll give me your Sentiments on by the first Opportunity. –

You have inclosed an Accot Disbursements on the *Peggy* & of Money supplied Capt. [William] Barron, amount at your Debit £17.8.0 lawful. –

You have likewise inclosed a List of 180 Days Provision supplied People belonging to the *Swan* at different Times by Mr [G.] Gefferina which you'll include in your first Voucher from Mr. Bates: I have cast the Quantity of Provision on the Back as near as is necessary. – Mr Lewis will include in his first Voucher with you the 487 l. fresh Beef he owes me since the Ship was here. – Pray let me have your Accounts as soon as possible. – With due compliments to your good Family I am, Dr Sir [&c.]

Alex^r Brymer ²1. Ship Papers, ship *Peggy*, NHS.

2. Brymer was the Boston agent for the contractor supplying the British navy with provisions.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO THOMAS & ISAAC WHARTON, PHILADELPHIA ¹

Gentlemen

New London July 12th 1775

Yesterday John Mackibbin in the Sloop *Black Joke* with 10000 Gallons Melasses, 15 Thousand wt of Coffee, 26 Thousand of Sugar Sailed for Phila Capt [Edward] Chappell is on Board as a Pilote and I have given him Orders to take the Sugar and Coffee on Shore without paying the Duty's and if it Can be

Avoided not to pay any for the Melasses for I think its time to lay that Matter Aside for the present – Beg youl have your Store in Readiness to Receive it, he Intends to leave the Vessell at Glossister Point & Come up and Advise you of her Arrival – If she Arrives and Can Discharge her Cargoe, take in Another and Clear out before the 20th of July Inst for Hispaniola, I would have you putt on Board Three Hundred Barrels of Super Fine Flower and Some long Staves for Sugar Casks, & Sail for Hispaniola,² if not would have her Come home in Ballast, for I think it will not Answer to Give Bonds to be Obligated to Sell in An English Island – if you can get her a freight Should Rather take it then Return home in Ballast I think it will be best for my Interest to Let the Goods Remain in Store until they will Sell for their Value. Inclosed is a Letter for Capt Mackibbin which please to Deliver shall write you again by the Next Post, And Am &c.

Nath^{el} Shaw Jun^r

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

2. The *Black Joke* arrived in the Delaware prior to July 24, 1775, according to a Custom House entry in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of that date.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO CAPTAIN JOHN MACKIBBIN ¹

Sir

New London July 12th 1775

I hope you will Arive Safe, and Land Your Cargoe Agreeable to my Directions without Any Difficulty. I have Desired Messrs [Thomas and Isaac] Whar tons to put on Board Three Hundred Barrels of Super Fine Flower and fill up the Sloop with Long Staves, if you Can make Out so as to Clear your Vessel for Hispaniola at the Custom House before the 20th Instant, for After that time I Suppose no Vessel Can Clear out for a Forreign Port ² – if you Can't Get Loaded by that Time you must Come home in Ballast unless you Can Get a freight to Some Port in the West Indies or if you Can Sell her for Three Hundred Pounds Phila Currency Sell her, if you Load for the West Indies do you Sail for Hispaniola & do the best you Can in the Sail of your Cargoe and Purchase Gun Powder & Return as Soon as you Can – if that Article is not to be had Purchase Brown Sugar and Coffee – Dont keep this Letter on Board for Fear of Accidents but burn it. – I Imagin after the 20th of this Month you Cannot Clear out for N. London if that should be the Case you may Come Home in Ballast without Clearing out and Get me Two Thousand feet of Good Long Yellow Pine Plank 2½ Inch for the Brigg *Nancy* Deck have not to add but shall write you again by the next Post, if Nothing Extra Happens I am Sr Yours &c

Nath^{el} Shaw Jun^r

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

2. Shaw was confused about the date set in the Continental Association, which was September 10, not July 20, 1775.

Connecticut Journal, WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1775

New Haven, July 12.

Last Sunday afternoon [July 9] a cruizer sloop of war, (said to be the *Lively*) having chaced, and fired several shot at an inward bound vessel, belonging to Connecticut river, she was boarded by two armed boats, from the man of war, (having run aground on Say-Brook Bar) who after a short examination left her. The

report of the guns having alarmed the inhabitants, a number of them assembled on the shore arm'd, and exchanged some random shots with the boats.

The *King-Fisher* sloop-of-war, late from New York, we hear, has been several days cruising in the Sound – Yesterday she came too at Branford.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] 5 ho. P.M. Wednesday, July 12th, 1775.

A draft of an answer to the letter of Burnet Miller, chairman of the Committee of East and South-Hampton, was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

Committee of Safety, For the Colony of New-York July 12, 1775

Gentlemen – We are favoured with your letter dated South-Hampton the 5th instant, signed by Mr. Miller, Chairman of the committee of East and South-Hampton, and are to inform you that we will forward a copy of the same to Major General [Philip] Schuyler, to whose consideration we must refer your request.

We are with much respect, gentlemen [&c.]

To the Committee of East and Southampton

Ordered, That a copy thereof be signed by the Chairman and transmitted.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 76.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, July 12, 1775

On motion, *Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to devise ways and means to protect the trade of these Colonies.

The Congress than proceeded to the election of the Committee and the following persons were chosen, viz: Mr. [John] Jay, Mr. [Benjamin] Franklin, Mr. [Christopher] Gadsden, Mr. [Silas] Deane, and Mr. [Richard Henry] Lee.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 177.

Pennsylvania Journal, WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1775

Philadelphia, [July 12].

Capt. Wilson from St. Kitts, on Saturday last [July 8] about 30 leagues to the southward of our Capes, spoke the ship *Mercury*, of 20 guns, which by the course she steared, he immagined was bound to Carolina.

HOLT'S *Virginia Gazette*, WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1775

Norfolk, July 12.

On Monday [July 10] arrived in the road, the *Mercury* man of war, of 24 guns, full of men, but we know not for what purpose.

We just hear now of the arrival of the Boston ¹ man of war in the road, and that the *Magdalen* armed schooner had put back in distress; so that we have now four men of war and an armed schooner for our "protection and defence!"

In consequence of which, it is said, 2000 men are to be raised and stationed at Williamsburg and York.

1. His Majesty's Ship *Mercury*, from Boston.

MASTER'S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Mercury*¹

1775 July Rem[ark]s on bd His Maj Ship *Mercury*
 Wednes 12th A M the Cartonters Empd fixing Swivel Stocks in the Longboat.
 at 1/2 past Noon Saluted Governor Dunmoore with 13 Guns at his
 Coming on bd and withe Same Number at his gowin from the
 Ship

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1866.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD DARTMOUTH¹

(No 29) The *Fowey* in York river July the 12th 1775

My Lord Since my letter No. 28 dispatched by his Majesty's Schooner the *Magdalen*, the last Resolves of the house of Burgesses have been made publick, and I now transmit them to your Lordship in the Supplement of the publick Printers News paper (mark therein B)² the Same Supplement contains under the Williamsburg head of the 30th. of June, an Account of the proceedings of a meeting of the Inhabitants of that city "convened, by the honorable Peyton Randolph Esq," the Speaker of the house of Burgesses, "to consider of the expediency of Stationing a number of men there for the publick Safety, and to assist the Citizens in their nightly watches to guard against any surprise from their Enemies," by which no others can be meant than the kings Governor, and the kings Forces of a twenty Gun Ship and a Sloop of War, Stationed in this Colony.

In consequence of this Step of Mr. Randolphs a great number of people, horse and Foot, from various parts of the country have flocked to Williamsburg, armed and accoutred, and wearing uniforms, and, the different Companies, their badges of distinction. They have made a Barrack of the Capitol, a large building in which are held the Courts of Justices, and intended for the Council and house of Burgesses with their different offices, and they have taken possession of the Park (a Considerable piece of land adjoining and belonging to the Governors house) for their Cavalry, wantonly Cutting and maiming my Cattle which they found there.

A few days after the arrival of these Gentry a number of them broke, a Second time, into the Palace (the Governors house) and, as the first time, of which I have informed your Lordship, they went no further than taking the Arms which they found in a Hall, this time they broke open every lock of the doors of all the rooms, Cabinets and private places, and carried off a considerable number of arms of different Sorts, a large Collection, and valuable, my own property. This Violence was committed in the face of day; the leaders in it well known, and one of the principal was to Son of Mr [Robert Carter] Nicholas [III]³ the Treasurer, the Same who was lately made a controler of his Majesty's Customs; Mr Nicholas the Father and the Speaker, who now direct the proceedings of this country, were then in Williamsburg, and Consequently could not but be privy to this infamous

robbery; this violation of private property, as well as atrocious outrage against the kings Authority.

The very day after this, I happened, for the only time Since I first embarked on board his Majesty's Ship, to go, in the man of wars Barge, to a Farm (my own Property) about Seven miles from Williamsburg, Situated upon a Creek which runs into York river about twelve miles above the Town of York where the Ship lay.

The Barge was observed from the Town, and it was easily conjectured where I was going; accordingly intelligence was immediately Sent to Williamsburg, and Just after Captain [George] Montague and I had done dinner, that Gentleman having accompanied me, we were informed by my Servants that a body of men in Arms were Seen advancing directly to the House, which we likewise Saw ourselves upon going out, and we had but Just time to get into our boat and to escape; two men, Carpenters of the Ship, whom we had brought with us in order to cut down a mast for a boat, and who were at a little distance from my house, were Seized by these people, upon my own land, and have been made prisoners, and are now confined in Williamsburg under a guard,⁴ a Servant, who got into a Canoe to follow me, a very little time afterwards, was fired at four or five different times.

Two days ago the *Mercury* a twenty Gun Ship arrived here to relieve the *Fowey*, which has been Stationed here Some time. Intelligence was given on the coast by a Pilot boat of her approach; and Mr [Archibald] Cary the Naval officer of the lower district of James river, a considerable office under Government, who is one of the most active and virulent of the Enemies of Government, immediately dispatched Expresses, to allarm the Country, representing that the Ship brought a great number of Soldiers for disembarkation, & the Speaker and Treasurer gladly Seized this pretence for infusing fresh apprehensions of threatening danger; and for enviting more people down from all parts of the colony. A detachment was immediately Sent off from Williamsburg to reinforce the company in York Town, which arrived the Same evening as the man of war; and we have now a Camp of these People behind the Town of York, not half a Cannon-Shot from the Ships; and the men are Continually parading in arms along the Shore Close to us, and at night we hear them challenge every boat or person that approaches them.

Thus my Lord the People of Virginia manifest open Rebellion by every means in their power, and they declare at the Same time that they are his Majesty's Most dutyfull Subjects, "that they will to the utmost of their power, at all times, and at risk of their lives and properties maintain and defend his Government in this Colony, as founded on the established laws and principles of the Constitution," and that as designs have never been formed against my person, but that I may, when ever I please return to my usual Resedence without the least danger; notwithstanding that my own Servants are prevented from passing with provisions which is thus cut off from me & denied to me, my people have been Carried off by the guard; while my house has been a third time rifled, and is now entirely in the possession of these lawless Ruffians.

It is necessary your Lordship Should be made acquainted, that the Fund, out of which the Salary of the Governor, and some other officers, is paid, as it arises from the duty, as your Lordship knows, upon Tobacco exported, and upon the Tonnage of all Vessels trading to the Colony, will fail entirely after the first of September next, when by the association, all exports to great Britain are to cease.⁵ I have for near two years received little or no perquisites of my office, as the collectors cannot be brought to account, but after the first of September, I shall receive neither perquisite nor Salary; I hope therefore your Lordship will acquaint me how I am to Subsist, if it be his Majesty's pleasure that his Governor remain here. It will likewise be necessary that I should be instructed in regard of what disbursements I may be allowed to make for my own accomodation; I am obliged to hire a vessel for my Servants and baggage, and, for the future, I Shall be obliged to make it my own residence, there not being room for me in the Man of War which relieves the *Fowey*: and I cannot but hope that the inconvenience and distress which I must necessarily go thro' in this Situation will be considered as proof of my zeal for his majesty's Service.

A Vessel must likewise be hired for the hundred men which I wrote to your Lordship I had Sent for, as no quarters can be procured for them on Shore. I hope your Lordship will give me directions how these unavoidable expenses are to be defrayed.

Your Lordships letter No 19 has been received and, by the last New York Post, a dispatch was brought to me all open. In the cover, which I hear inclose Just in the Condition as I found it, were two papers which had been taken out of a packet, likewise broke open, containing private letters which came at the Same time, and no letter of your Lordships. In a large bundle of papers which, after they had broke open, they put up in the greatest disorder without any desire to Conceal the attempt, I found a parcel of printed papers, the Speech of General [John] Burgoyne; a letter from your Lordship Signifying his majestys pleasure that the orders of the Commander in chief of the Forces, and, under him, of the Major Generals and Brigadiers, Shall be Supreme in all Cases relating to the operations of the Troops; and letters from Mr. [John] Pownal[1] inclosing the Bill for restraining the Trade of the New England Colonies, that for restraining the Trade of Virginia and other Colonies and Some other Acts of Parliament. I am unable to say whether any papers were taken away or not, but your Lordship from this account will know. I cannot find out where these packets were broke open. the Postmaster of Williamsburg denies its having been done there.

I am [&c.]

Dunmore

P:S: I could not Send the Duplicate of My letter No. 28 my Clerk having been made a Prisoner at Williamsburg where he is now detained – but it shall be transmitted as soon as possible.

D—

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/1353, 451–456, LC Transcript.

2. Alexander Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, June 30, 1775, Number 22, and Supplement.

3. Captain George Nicholas.

4. See Extract from Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, July 8, 1775.

5. The Governor was mistaken; exports were to cease September 10, not September 1, 1775.

ROBERT BEVERLY TO JOHN BACKHOUSE, LIVERPOOL ¹

[Extract]

[Virginia] July 12th 1775.

I wrote to you 6th Inst by a Ship bound to London, but wh Is not yet sailed desiring Insurance on 32 hhds on board the *Marlborough*. I have put two [hhds of Tobacco] on Board Clarke, & am in Hopes I shall be able to furnish him with 8 more in a few Days. The 22 marked E L K you will find uncommonly neat, & heavier than usual. The critical Situation of American Disputes, & the very small Probability there is of a speedy Accomodation must in a few Months render Tobo a very valuable & scarce Article in G Britain. You will be pretty well able to judge of the Complexion of the Times from our News Papers, altho' it may not be amiss to appri[se] you that both Parties do not relate Transactions, or represent Temper with that Candor, wh ought ever to distinguish the Actions of Men in publick Sphere. I am afraid *all* Parties have not exerted a benevolent Influence to accomodate this Dispute – in every Convulsion of this Kind the Minds of Men will be prejudiced, & some will be apt, perhaps, to chalk out, *in Idea*, Schemes more suitable to their own Wishes, than the Welfare of the Community – Such Persons become dangerous, & are most frequently caught in their own Snare – I hope, as yet, we have none such amongst us, but if this unhappy Dispute shd continue much longer, as I am afraid it will, it is not improbable but some aspiring Genius may be tempted to swerve from the Line of their Duty, & thereby plunge their Fellow Citizens into an Abyss of Misery . . .

1. Robert Beverly Letter Book, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE COUNCIL OF SAFETY FOR THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH CAROLINA ¹

[Charleston] Wednesday, July 12, 1775

Resolved, That the Hon. Mr. [William Henry] Drayton and Mr. [Miles] Brewton be desired immediately to go to Savannah, in Georgia, on special service relative to procuring gun-powder and other necessities.

1. *Collections of the South Carolina Historical Society*, II, 36.**13 July**MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Cambridge] July 13, 1775

His Excellency General Washington having this day ordered to the direction of this Committee ten prisoners, taken some time past at Machias, on board an armed Cutter, the Committee, apprehending from their commission of the 8th instant that they are altogether restricted from acting as a Committee but only in the recess of Congress, except in conformity to certain special Resolves of Congress, have resolved that the said prisoners be sent to [the Massachusetts Provincial] Congress for their orders, and that Dr. [Benjamin] Church be directed to attend Congress with this Resolve.

Whereas, Lieutenant Ely Stiles has represented to this Committee that he has been at considerable expense in conducting the prisoners from Machias to Head-Quarters, and desires to be repaid; but this matter not being within the

powers with which this Committee is vested, they beg leave to recommend the consideration of this case to the honourable Congress.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1775

Cambridge, July 13.

On Tuesday Night [July 11] a Party of Men was sent from Roxbury Camp to Long-Island, in Boston Harbour from whence they brought off 15 of the Enemy Prisoners, between 20 and 30 horned Cattle, and about 100 Sheep. The Prisoners were brought to Head-Quarters Yesterday, and soon after sent to Concord.

PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Thursday, July 13, 1775

The following Instructions, reported to be given Captain Davis, were considered.

Captain Davis

Sir: You are hereby desired to repair to Stonington, in Connecticut, and take charge of the Brig *Nancy* and cargo, lying in said harbour, upon receiving the consent of his Honour Governour [Jonathan] Trumbull; to take account of said cargo, and make sale of such part or parts thereof, as shall be sufficient to discharge the portage bill, and such other incidental charges as may necessarily arise. You are then directed to secure the remaining part of said cargo in good and sufficient stores, at the place above mentioned, and to make a return of your doings to this Congress or House of Representatives to be convened. Which cargo is to be appropriated to the use of this Colony and to be draughted at the discretion of the Committee of Supplies.

By order of Congress.

After debate, the Report was ordered to be dismissed.

Afternoon

The Committee appointed to consider what is best to be done with the ten Prisoners brought from Machias, reported. Whereupon,

Resolved, That the Commanding Officer of the Town of Watertown be desired to appoint some officer with a guard of not more than eight men, to conduct the said Prisoners to the Jail in Worcester to-morrow morning; that Captain [Edward] Crafts be desired to take care of the said Prisoners till that time, and that the officer who may be appointed to conduct said Prisoners to Worcester, be empowered to draw on Captain Brown, the Commissary in this Town, for so much Provisions as may be necessary for their support to Worcester, and Captain Brown is directed to supply them accordingly.

The Report above mentioned was reconsidered, amended, and accepted, and is as follows, viz:

Resolved, That Thomas Skinner, a seaman, William Nurse, a marine, John Burrows, a seaman, Nicholas Durham, a marine, Peter Larcher, a sailor, Thomas Crispo, Joseph Temple, sailors, William Bishop, a sailor, and John Pardo, a

marine, Prisoners, all taken aboard the armed schooner called the *Margaretta*, commanded by Matthew Moor, near Machias, be all sent under a proper guard, the common Jail in the County of Worcester; and the Jail keeper is hereby directed to receive them therein, and provide for them, and detain them there till the further order of this Congress, or the House of Representatives of this Colony.

Whereas the Hon. Jedediah Preble and the Hon. Enoch Freeman, Esquires, have employed some persons to build a number of Whale Boats for the service of the publick, therefore,

Sesolved, That the Committee of Supplies be, and hereby are directed to deliver to Captain Briant Morton, or order, to be by said Morton delivered to said Preble and Freeman, such a quantity of Nails and Provisions, as they think will be necessary to complete the building said Boats.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1512–1518, from Mass. Arch., vol. 32.

MINUTES OF THE PROVIDENCE COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION ¹

At a Meeting of the Committe of Inspection held in the Court House in Providence the 13th July 1775

Samuel Nightingale Esqr in the Chair

Resolve that the Pass between this Town & the Town of Newport be kept open, and that Mr James Marsh or any other person be allowed to Pass & Repass with their Packet Boats without Molestation, under the Following Restrictions

First, that at the arrival of any Packet or passage Boat at Providence, the commander of sd Packet or Boat Immediately Exhibit a List in writing of all the Letters and Goods they have on Freight, Ascertainig the Sorts & number of packages, and for whom Freightd also the Number of pasengers with their Names, before they unlade any Article, to Jabez Bowen & Arthur Fenner Esqrs Messrs. Paul Allen, David Lawrance, Joseph Bucklen, & Nicholas Powers or Either of them, who are a Committe apointed for that Purpose –

Second that they Shall not take any Article of Provision Kind on board their Boat & Carrey to Newport, or any other Place, without giting a permit from Sum one of the above Committe, for that purpose. –

Resolved that if any person or persons Shall attempt to Carry Freight or Pasengers between this Town & Newport that does not Comply with the above Resolve will be Immediately Stopt –

Resolved that no Uropean goods be admitted to come from Newport to this Town without a Certificate from John Collins Esqr as Chairman of the Committee of Inspection Setting forth their legall Importation agreable to the Resolves of the Continental Congress, and that Every peace & parsell of Goods has bin duly compaired with the original Invoice, Either by him or sum proper person on whome he can put the utmost Confidence

Test Dan^l Cahoon Clk pro Temp –

[Endorsed]

I Dessent from the within Vote so far as Respects the Free intercourse of James Marsh so long as he is employed by a Tory

A Fenner Jr

the above is a True copy of the original protest

Test Dan Cahoon Clk Pro; tempore

1. RIHS Mss., vol. 13.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775

Moor'd at New York

Sunday 13 sent the Pinnacle a Shore with a Sick Man, She was haul'd up on a Wharf & Stove, then Launched & set on Fire by a Mob of People in the Town.

1. PRO, Admiralty, Class 51/67.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Thursday, 9 ho. A.M. July 13, 1775.

Alderman [David] Matthews and Alderman [George] Brewerton, applied to the committee and delivered a letter from Captain [George] VanDeput of His Majesty's ship *Asia* to Governor [William] Tryon, complaining that one of his boats is brought on shore and the crew detained prisoners; and the committee being informed that the boat's crew are prisoners in Gen. [David] Wooster's camp; and also, that His Majesty's store near Hudson's river was broken open during last night, and divers effects carried away from thence by violence;

Ordered, That Samuel Verplanck, Isaac Low, and Gouverneur Morris, Esqs. be a sub-committee from this committee to wait on Gen. Wooster, in order to make inquiry and to receive information on those subjects, and also to give such directions therein as they shall think proper, that right may be done without delay. Thereupon a draft of a letter to General Wooster was read and approved, and is as follows:

Committee of Safety, for the Colony of New-York, July 13th, 1775.

Sir – Complaint has been made to our board that a boat belonging to His Majesty's Ship *Asia* has been drawn on shore, and the boat's crew detained as prisoners, at your camp; and also, that His Majesty's store house near Hudson's River was, during last night broken open and divers effects carried away from thence by violence. It is alleged that some of the troops under your command, have been concerned in both those acts.

We have, therefore, appointed Samuel Verplanck, Isaac Low, and Gouverneur Morris, Esqs. a committee from our Board, to wait on you, in order to make inquiry and receive information on those subjects; and also, to give such directions therein as they shall think proper, that right might be done without delay.

We are Sir, [&c.] By order of the Committee.
Major-General Wooster.

Ordered, That a copy thereof signed by the Chairman, be delivered to the sub-committee.

Mr. Low, from the committee who waited on Gen. Wooster, reported that General Wooster informed them that the matter of complaint relating to the boat and boat's crew belonging to the ship *Asia*, had arose through some mistake of the master of the Connecticut armed Schooner. That he had ordered the boat to be restored, and sent a party to put her in the water, and that the boat's crew he had discharged as soon as he heard of their being detained.

That as to the effects brought to his camp last night, he had ordered them to be taken care of, and that they are preserved under a guard; that they were brought there by some persons without his knowledge or directions; that one Brasher informed him that Col. [Rudolphus] Ritzema had desired him to receive and protect those effects; and, therefore, he had set a guard over them, and they were ready to be delivered to the owner, or to the order of this committee.

The Recorder and Alderman Brewerton and Matthews were called in, and they informed the committee that the boat belonging to the *Asia* man of war is burnt.

Whereupon the committee made the following order:

Whereas, Information hath been given to this committee by some of the civil magistrates of the city of New York, that an attack was made without provocation, upon a boat belonging to His Majesty's Ship *Asia*, and that boat wantonly destroyed; and also that the house and stores of Mr. Francis Stevens, have been violently broken open and robbed of private property, and military stores taken from thence: AND WHEREAS, the said magistrates have requested the advice of this committee in the premises,

Ordered, That it be recommended to the civil magistrates to examine strictly into the several matters and things above mentioned, and to punish all persons who are guilty of perpetrating the same, as the law directs; and that it be and hereby is, recommended to all the citizens and others to aid and assist the magistrates in the execution of their offices.

Ordered, That the foregoing order be published in handbills, and distributed.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 77-78.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 13 [1775]

Resolved, That the thanks of this Board be given to Mr. Ebenezer Robinson, for his plan for stopping the Channel of the River Delaware.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 286.

DEPOSITION OF CAPTAIN EDWARD WEEKES ¹

Baltimore County ss. 13 July 1775.

Edward Weeks of the Snow *Potowmack* from Dublin and Madeira maketh Oath on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God that he hath not Imported in the

said Vessell during this present Voyage, except necessary Stores for the use of the said Vessell and which are not for Sale, any Goods Wares or Merchandizes whatsoever from Great Britain or Ireland or of the growth or Manufacture of Great Britain or Ireland, or any Goods exported from them or either of them, or any East India Tea, or any Molasses Syrups Paneles Coffe or Pimento of the Growth of the British West India Islands, or Dominica, or any Wines from Madeira or the Western Islands, or Foreign Indigo, or any Slave or Slaves – Save and except one Box of Handkerchiefs which were Shipt onboard at the Port of Waterford by David Sherrard and Consigned to John Pringle of Phila, which said Box & Handks are Consumed and destroyd, to prevent any interruption or objection to his taking onboard a Cargo in this Port, as they were Shipt onboard the said Snow before this deponent took the Command which was only the day before they Saild. – And also save and except 28 Pipes 5 Hhds & 7 quarter Casks of Wine which were Shipt at Madeira for Dublin and is intended to be landed there and not in America.

Sworn before me James Clarke

Edw^d Weekes

1. Balt. Com., LC.

RECEIPT OF CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU, R.N. FOR MONEYS TO BE SENT TO
BOSTON ¹

Port York River, July 13, 1775.

Rec'd of Jaquelin Ambler, Esq., Collector of his Majesty's Customs for said port, Twelve hundred dollars, weighing one thousand and thirty-nine ounces, four penny weights of silver, to be delivered to the Cashier of his Majestie's Customs for the time being at Boston. In witness whereof I have signed two receipts of this tenor and date, one of which being complied with, the other to be void.

Geo. Montagu

1. Gilmer Collection, VHS.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, TUESDAY, JULY 25, 1775

Gloucestertown [Virginia], July 13, 1775.

It is certain that a boat from the *Fowey* or *Otter* landed several armed men on an island in the lower end of this country, who stole fourteen sheep and a cow. The owner of them alarmed his neighbours; but before they could arm themselves the robbers had made off. However, the people, who are now well furnished with arms, &c. will be ready to give them a warm reception, should they favour them with another visit. – *Quere*, Are not the negro slaves, now on board the *Fowey*, which are under the G[overno]r's protection, in actual rebellion, and punishable as such? Is it not high time to shew Administration how little they have to expect from that part of their bloody plan, by arming our trusty slaves ourselves?

HENRY LAURENS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO
CLEMENT LEMPRIERE ¹

Sir The Council of safety are desirous of consulting you upon a subject of great importance in the American Cause & by their order I request you to meet them in the State House to Morrow Morning – the Council will sit from 9 to 11 oClock –

I am with great regard Sir

Thursday Night 13 July 1775

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, I (Charleston, 1900), 183.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

On Motion

[Charleston] Thursday, July 13, 1775

Resolved, That this Council will provide for the Purchase of a proper Boat for the Use of the Secret Committee, under the Care of Mr Veree.

1. Laurens Collection, SCHS.

14 July

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL
CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

Camp, Cambridge July 14th 1775

The great Scarcity of fresh Provisions in their Army has led me to take every Precaution to prevent a Supply. For this Purpose, I have ordered all the Cattle & Sheep to be driven from the low Grounds & Farms within their Reach. A Detachment from Genl [John] Thomas's Camp on Wednesday Night [July 12] went over to Long Island and brought from thence 20 Cattle, and a Number of Sheep, with about 15 Labourers, who had been put on by a Mr Ray Thomas to cut the Hay &c By some Accident they Omitted burning the Hay, and returned the next Day at Noon to complete it; which they effected amidst the Firing of the Shipping with the Loss of one Man killed & another wounded.

Last Evening also a Party of the Connecticut Men strolled down on the Marsh at Roxbury, and fired upon a Centry which drew on a heavy Fire from the Enemies Lines, and floating Batteries, but attended with no other Effect than the Loss of one Killed by a Shot from the Enemies Lines. In the mean Time we are on both Sides continuing our Works, but there has been no other Movement than what I have noticed above.

1. Papers CC, 152, I, 27, NA.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston, July 14, 1775]

By a Letter from Captain [John] Collins, dated the 9 July in Sandy Hook Bay, the Admiral was informed that Captain Collins had met with the last of the Transports (the *Resolution*), that the *Three Sisters* was at Anchor in the Bay, and that he had sent to the Master to get under weigh and join the *Resolution* and

proceed together to Boston, and Captain Collins wrote that he should forthwith compleat his provisions to four Months at New York, and proceed to the River Delaware according to his Orders.

1. Graves's Conduct I, 139, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU,
COMMANDING ¹

Rhode Isld Light House N N E 5 Ms

July 1775 at 2 P M Weighed & Came to Sail at 6 gave Chace to a Brig fired
Friday 14 A Gun & Spoke 2 Sloops from Rhode Isld at 7 Boarded the Brig
from Martinico wth Molasses sent A Midshipman & 6 Seamen on
Bd her to Carry her round to Boston ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

2. The brig *Comfort*, John Smith, master, bound for New London. At Boston the cargo was sold and the brig chartered for the use of the British Army. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1775

New London, July 14.

Last Lords-Day Afternoon [July 9], a Barge was sent with two Swivels and a number of Small Arms, from the *King fisher* Man of War (which was lying in the Sound off the Mouth of Connecticut River) in Chase of a Schooner belonging to Rocky-Hill, which was bound into the River; – the Schooner grounding on Say Brook Bar, she was boarded by the People from the Barge, who attempted to get her a-float, but finding they could not, left her. – On sight of the Barge, Numbers of arm'd People immediately collected on the Points each Side the river, when a Number of shot were exchanged on both Sides. Our People received no damage – what Damage was done to the People in the Barge we don't learn, but upon receiving our Fire they immediately rowed in great haste further from shore.

COMFORT SAGE TO MAJOR SAMUEL BLACHLEY WEBB ¹

[Extract]

Middletown, 14 July 1775

Last Monday [July 10] the *King Fisher* went up the Sound after a vessel from Sea, and sent her Barge with 16 men on shore at Branford. A number of people collected and cut her off, & took the barge with the people.²

1. Ford, comp. & ed., *Correspondence and Journals of Samuel Blachley Webb*, 3 vols. (New York, 1893), I, 82, 83. Hereafter cited as Ford, comp. & ed., *Webb Papers*.

2. Neither barge nor crew was taken. See *Connecticut Gazette*, July 14, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Veneris, 9 ho., A.M., July 14th, 1775.

Stephen Seaman and Obadiah Seaman attending at the door, were called in, and gave the committee such information, as affords great reason to suspect that George Youngs and his son, and Captain [John] Brush, and one [Cornelius]

Conklin, all of Huntington, are concerned in shipping provisions to supply Gen. Gage's fleet and army. Short notes of their examinations were taken and filed.

Thereupon a draft of a letter to John Sloss Hobart, Esq. was read and approved of, and is in the words following to wit:

Committee of Safety, For the Colony of New-York July 14th, 1775.

Sir – We have received such information as gives us great reason to suspect, that one George Youngs and his son, and one Brush and one Conklin, all of or near Huntington, are concerned in shipping provisions in such manner as that they must inevitably serve to supply Gen. Gage's fleet and army in Boston. We enclose you notes taken from two witnesses on that subject. We need not suggest to you that it is incumbent on those people to show where they have unloaded their former cargoes, and where they are now going; and that they have complied with the association without fraud. We have the highest confidence that your Committee will exert themselves on this occasion.

We are respectfully, sir [&c.] By order

To John Sloss Hobart, Esq.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, signed by the Chairman, and together with a copy of the examination of Obadiah and Stephen Seaman, be transmitted by the first conveyance.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 78.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, July 14, 1775

A motion being made by Doctr [Benjamin] Franklin and seconded,

Resolved, that the same be taken into consideration to Morrow morning.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 184.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 14th. [1775]

Resolved, That the Board will go down this morning and view the Ground on which it is proposed to raise a Battery.

Resolved, That Owen Biddle be directed to procure Four Ton of Grape Shot.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 286.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1775

Williamsburg, July 14.

Monday last [July 10] arrived at York town, from the northward, his Majesty's ship *Mercury*, of 24 guns, John Macartney, Esq; commander, to relieve the *Fowey* man of war, Capt. [George] Montague; and yesterday she departed for Boston, with *our good friend* Capt. [Edward] Foy, who is appointed by Gen-

eral Gage to the command of the artillery. [*Have a care Captain, of your Minden laurels; 'tis ten to one but they get cropp'd by some of the plaguy Yankies!*] ¹

At the same time fell down the river, the *Otter* sloop of war, Capt. [Matthew] Squires.

We have not been able to learn where Lord Dunmore intends fixing his residence; some say at Portsmouth, but we only mention it as a report.

All his Lordship's domesticks have now fled the palace, and are gone, bag and baggage, to his farm at Porto Bello, about six miles from town.

1. Brackets and italics by the printer.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety

[Charleston] Friday, July 14, 1775

Mr [Thomas] Ferguson, Mr. John Huger, and Mr. [William] Williamson, were appointed a committee to confer with Capt. [Clement] Lempriere on a proper plan and estimate for speedily procuring a quantity of gun-powder.

Ordered, That they bring in their report at the meeting of the Council tomorrow morning.

1. *Collections of the South Carolina Historical Society*, II, 3940.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS, LONDON ¹

[Extract]

[Charleston] 14. July 1775

p. *Mermaid*

Capt [John] Tolemach [Tollemache] of the *Scorpion* Sloop carried off a valuable black Pilot by way of Reprisal & for worse purposes perhaps – for our refusing to return Some of his Seamen who had enlisted in the Regiments of Foot – I was Singular in my opposition to that impolitic measure & expressly foretold the consequence – but I added, that if I was Captain of the Man of War I would carry off the president of the Council of Safety – . . .

By the Alertness of our Secret Committee & their Deputies about 15 or 20 Thousand Weight of Gun powder has been taken from on board the *Magna Charte* at Sea & Secured for Colony Service & a plan is now on our Table for Securing about as much more by a Masterly Stroke which will if we Succeed, please many & make every Body Share ² –

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–75, SCHS.

2. The seizure of powder on board a vessel off St. Augustine.

SAMUEL HUNTING TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. ¹

Sr.

Cape Nicholas Mole July 14th. 1775

After my Respects to you would inform you that we arrived at Martinico the 28th of June when after making Tryall & finding there was Nothing to be done we proceeded to Guadalupe & next to St. Eustatia, at both which Places we met with the same hard Luck – at Guadalupe Capt [William] Packwood said

he could have got a full Supply, but the Price was so very high that he thought it would not do to give it. We arrived in this Place the 10th Inst & can Let you know that Provisions of all kinds are very Plenty here – there is yet forty Bls of Pork that are not sold of the Last Voyage most of which our Cooper has overhauled & pickled & is in very good order – Capt Packwood would have me inform you that he is Obligd to Advance the Money for the Debt he left here as the Provisions are not sold – he would have me further inform you that the Candles are come to a very bad Market, as there is upwards of 3000 Boxes now in this Port & says he is very sorry he had not taken four Bits which he could have had to windward – Flower is now going a 7 pr Eight & very plenty – Mollasses a 20 sols P Galln – Capt Packwood went from this Place Last Night for Lugan [Leogane] & Port au Prince & says he hopes to be back again in 10 Days or a fortnit & says he has great Encouragement that he shall answer his Design before he returns – Capt Fransway touched here in his way to Lugan about 8 or 10 days past I am Sr [&c.]

I write by the Way of
Newport Rhode Island.

Sam^l Hunting

1. Shaw Collection, Packet No. 3, YUL.

15 July

GENERAL ORDERS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Head Quarters, Cambridge, July 15, 1775

The Commanding Officers of each Regiment to report the names of such Men in their respective Corps, as are most expert in the management of whale-boats.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY ¹

Sir,

[Preston, Boston] 15th [July 1775]

The 12th instant I received by the Pacquet your several Letters dated May 4, in answer to mine of the 4th and 19th March, acquainting me that their Lordships are pleased to recommend to the favorable attention of the Lords of the Treasury the Expence of prosecuting the appeals from the Sentences of the Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court respecting the *Abigail* and *Industry* Schooners; and transmitting for my Information the following Papers, Vizt a Copy of a Letter from Hamburgh relating to a Dutch Hoy at Cuxhaven; an Extract of a Letter from Lisbon concerning a clandestine Trade expected to be carrying on between Portugal and America; Extracts of two Letters from the Hague relating to North American Vessels sailing from Holland without clearing in England; And a Copy of a Letter from Dunkirk, containing an Account of Vessels carrying Tobacco to that Port immediately from America. I beg you will be pleased to acquaint their

Lordships that I shall diligently use all the means in my power to suppress every kind of illicit Trade. I am &c

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 140, 141, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, H.M.S.
Scarborough, PISCATAQUA RIVER ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 15 July 1775.

I have received your Letters July 6 acquainting me with the Seizure of the Sloop and Schooner laden with wood, Spars and mercantile fish, and that all your Endeavours to get them prosecuted in the Vice Admiralty Court at Portsmouth have been ineffectual. I observe the Judge makes no objections, well knowing these Causes cannot be brought before him, but the Lawyers speak out and boldly assert that no man can move in behalf of the Laws or attempt to carry them into Execution without risking his life and property. To what purpose then do these Gentlemen remain at Portsmouth, for as all Civil Departments of Government are entirely useless among the People and obnoxious to them, it will be well if the Rebels allow them to partake of the Supplies permitted to pass for their Support: And the Kings Affairs receiving no Advantage from his Servants remaining totally and unavoidably inactive, they had better remove, and not, by continuing among a violent People determined to be in Rebellion, retard the Execution of such Measures as are become absolutely necessary to reduce the Province of New Hampshire to a due Observance of the Laws. I therefore will no longer consent that Supplies of any kind pass to Portsmouth and you will herewith receive an Order to the contrary accordingly.

I inclose the Attorney Generals opinion as you have desired, and will order the *Hope* to convoy the Vessels to Boston as soon as possible.

I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Grave's Conduct, Appendix, 454 MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, H.M.S.
Scarborough ¹

By Saml Graves Esqr Vice Admiral of the White & Commander in Chief &c.

Notwithstanding the directions contained in my Order of the 25 May to send all Vessels laden with Melasses and Salt to enter at Marblehead previous to their going to Boston, you are hereby required and directed whenever any Vessels are seized by his Majs Ship under your Command to order that they proceed strait to Boston without touching at any other Port.

And whereas the late rebellious Proceedings of the Town of Portsmouth in obliging his Excellency their Governor to remove for Safety under the Protection of the *Scarborough*, suffering the Province Treasure to be carried away by the Rebels, and preventing Seizures being prosecuted in the Admiralty Court, there

is no reason to hope Order and good Government will for some time be restored in the Sd Town; You are hereby required and directed not to suffer Provisions and Necessaries of any sort to be carried to the Town of Portsmouth or to any part of the adjacent Country, except such as you are satisfied is for the immediate Use of the Governor and the Kings Servants with his Excellency at Castle William and Mary; and to send the whole to Boston.

Given under my Hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston* at Boston the 15 July 1775.

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 455, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, H.M.S.
*Scarborough*¹

Sir

Preston Boston 15 July 1775.

Those parts of your Letters July 7 and 9 relating to the Province Treasure being delivered to the Rebels must undoubtedly surprise every person. People in open and avowed Rebellion fighting the Kings Forces, will never hesitate a moment to seize money wherever they can lay hands on it. But as Governor [John] Wentworth must have expected such a step to be taken, he was perhaps not empowered alone to remove the Province money, or thought an attempt to secure it for the King would only accelerate its seizure by the Rebels. Whatever Reasons therefore his Excellency might have had for letting the money remain in the Treasury, he alone must answer for its Loss. I am entirely satisfied with your Conduct in this matter. The Rebels are increasing their Numbers daily and carrying on Approaches to the Lines at the Neck; they have collected a Number of Whaleboats; it is said near three hundred. A Party of them visited one of the Islands in this Harbour, took off the Stock, and burnt the Houses. It is I believe generally thought they will make an Attempt upon the Town of Boston.

I am &c.

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 456, 457, MassHS Transcript.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1775

Providence, July 15.

Tuesday night [July 11] a party of the Americans went in boats to Long-Island, in Boston Bay, and brought off 18 horned cattle, 40 sheep, 5 hogs, a horse, and some valuable goods, the property of our enemies; they likewise brought 17 men, and a negroe, that had been making hay for the regular army. — On Wednesday night the party returned to the island, where they burnt a quantity of hay.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[New York] Die Sabbati, 9 ho. A.M. July 15th, 1775.

General [Philip] Schuyler having by his letter of the eleventh instant requested this Committee to appoint a proper person to command the Sloop [*Enterprise*] on Lake Champlain and send him up with all convenient speed, and

Capt. Patrick Dennis being sent for to confer with on the subject, recommended Capt. James Smith for the above service.

Captain James Smith attended and expressed his great willingness and cheerfulness to undertake that service, and is thought by this Committee to be a very proper person.

Thereupon a draught of a warrant to the said James Smith was made and approved, and is in the words following, to wit :

Committee of Safety for the Colony of New-York,

Mr. James Smith –

July 15th, 1775

You are hereby appointed captain of an armed vessel in the Continental service. You will receive the pay of a major in the service of the Continental forces, and to take your orders from Major-Gen. Schuyler or other commanding officers of the Continental troops for the time being. The General will designate the vessel you are to command, and you will receive a commission from the Continental Congress.

By order of the committee.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed and signed by the chairman, to be delivered to the said James Smith.

A draft of a Letter to Gen. Schuyler to be delivered by the said James Smith, was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit :

Committee of Safety for the Colony of New-York,

During the Recess of the Provincial Congress.

July 15th, 1775.

Sir – The bearer of this letter is James Smith, a gentleman of excellent character as a sea officer, who willingly undertook the command, refusing a ship he was offered, and left it to us to settle his pay, &c. We agree to a major's pay, and at the same time we submit to you whether he will not be entitled to that rank in the Continental service.

We are, sir, your very humble servants

To Major-Gen. Schuyler.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be signed by the chairman and transmitted by the said James Smith.

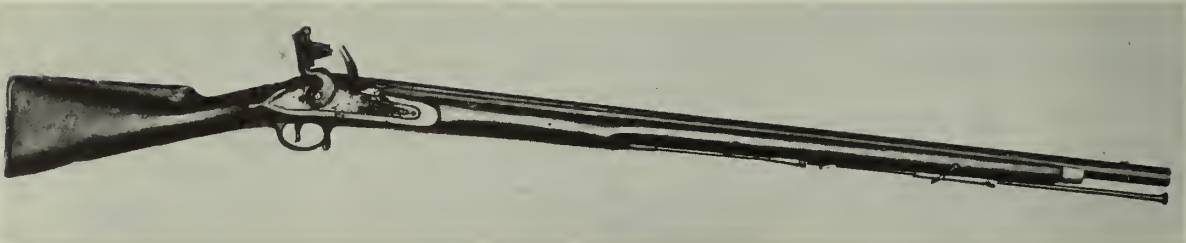
1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 80.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1775

Philadelphia, July 15.

It is said a man of war is arrived in the Delaware, but of what force is uncertain.¹

1. H.M.S. *Nautilus*, Captain John Collins.



(Top to bottom) *Naval dirk, double-barreled flintlock pistol, privateer flintlock blunderbuss, British musket; all of the Revolutionary period.*

In Congress,

SATURDAY, July 15, 1775.

WHEREAS the Government of Great-Britain hath prohibited the Exportation of A R M S and AMMUNITION to any of the Plantations, and endeavoured to prevent other Nations from supplying us,

RESOLVED, THAT for the better furnishing these Colonies with the necessary Means of defending their Rights, every Vessel importing Gun-Powder, Salt-Petre, Sulphur, provided they bring with the Sulphur four Times as much Salt-Petre, Brass Field-Pieces, or good Muskets fitted with Bayonets, within Nine Months from the Date of this Resolution, shall be permitted to load and export the Produce of these Colonies, to the Value of such Powder and Stores aforesaid, the Non-Exportation Agreement notwithstanding; and it is recommended to the Committees of the several Provinces to inspect the Military Stores so imported, and to estimate a generous Price for the same, according to their goodness, and permit the Importer of such Powder and other Military Stores aforesaid, to export the Value thereof and no more, in Produce of any Kind.

A true Copy from the Minutes.

CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary*

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, July 15, 1775

Agreeable to the order of yesterday, the motion made by Mr [Benjamin] F[ranklin] was taken into consideration, and after some debate they came to the following Resolution:

Whereas the government of Great Britain hath prohibited the exportation of arms and ammunition to any of the plantations, and endeavored to prevent other nations from supplying us:

Resolved, That for the better furnishing these colonies with the necessary means of defending their rights, every vessel importing Gun powder, Salt petre, Sulphur, provided they bring with the sulphur four times as much salt petre, brass field-pieces, or good muskets fitted with Bayonets, within nine Months from the date of this resolution, shall be permitted to load and export the produce of these colonies, to the value of such powder and stores aforesd the non-exportation agreement notwithstanding; and it is recommended to the committees of the several provinces to inspect the military stores so imported, and to estimate a generous price for the same, according to their goodness, and permit the importer of such powder and other military stores aforesaid, to export the value thereof and no more, in produce of any kind.

Ordered, That a copy of the above be delivered to the delegates of the Colony of Pennsylvania, who are desired to request the committee of this city to forward the same in hand bills to the West Indies and such places as they think proper, taking care that it be not published in the news papers.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 184, 185.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 15th [1775]

Resolved, That the Committee appointed for Building Boats & Machines for the Defence of the River, do immediately employ all the Carpenters & other Workmen that they think necessary for collecting materials for building 12 Boats (including the two already ordered) and as many Machines as may be thought sufficient for the interruption of the Navigation.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 287.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 Moored Point Comfort N E Willoughby's E b S Newport
Saturday 15. News: W b S in 8 fathoms
 at 6 A M his Majesty's sloop *Otter* sailed for Norfolk with his Ex-
 cellency Lord Dunmore on board at 9 veered away and Moored
 ship.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

July 1775

Anchored off Norfolk

Saturday 15 at 5 A M came on board a Pilot from the *Fowey* with Lord Dunmore – weighed and came to sail. at 8 Anchored with the Best Bower off the Town of Norfolk in 4 fathom. Veered away & moored a Cable on the small Bower and ½ a Cable on the Best Bower. found here a Number of Merchant Ships.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1775

Williamsburg, July 15.

His Majesty's ship *Mercury*, Capt. [John] M'Cartney, anchored off York town last tuesday [July 11]. This vessel left New York the 1st instant, and is come to relieve the *Fowey*, which sailed yesterday morning, in company with the *Otter*. The latter, we are told, is gone on a cruise, and is expected to return; but the *Fowey*, after landing the Right Hon. the Earl of Dunmore at Portsmouth (at which place it is supposed his Excellency will reside) proceeds to Boston with Captain Edward Foy on board, of his Majesty's train of artillery. . . .

The *Two Sisters*, Capt. Maxwell, is arrived in James river, from London. The Captain says the city of London is filled with lamentable complaints of the suffering poor; that great warlike preparations were making, and vast numbers of seamen entering into the King's service; and that 40 sail of transports were in the channel when he came out, which was about the 16th of May, all bound to Ireland to take in troops for America.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA ¹

Saturday July 15th 1775

At an occasional meeting of the Committee.

Present: Cornelius Hartnett, Chairman; John Robeson, Wm Wilkinson, John Foster, Wm Campbell, Archd MacLaine, Wm Purviance, Wm Ewins, Timothy Bloodworth, James Blythe, Peter Mallet, Henry Toomer, James Geekie.

Resolved unanimously That a reinforcement of as many men as will voluntarily turn out, be immediately dispatched to join Colonel [Robert] Howe who is now on his way to Fort Johnston and that it be recommended to the Captains of the Independent and Artillery Companies in Wilmington and the officers of the several companies in this county to muster their men and immediately equip those who are willing to go on that service.

The committee than adjourned to the next meeting.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 93.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety

[Charleston] Saturday, July 15, 1775

Mr. [William] Williamson, from the Committee appointed to confer with Capt. [Clement] Lempriere, reported and recommended

That two such pilot-boats should be procured as should meet with the approbation of Capt. Lempriere. That they be manned with eight stout able men each. That £1,000 in hard money be sent to purchase gun-powder, in case a disappointment should happen at P.² That the direction and management of the whole be left to Capt. Lempriere. And that two hundred dollars be offered to the boats crew as a reward if they succeed.

And the said report being read, was agreed to by the Council.

1. *Collections of the South Carolina Historical Society*, II, 43, 44.

2. The island of New Providence in the Bahamas.

16 July (Sunday)

PORTIA (ABIGAIL ADAMS) TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Braintree July 16 1775

I was struck with General Washington. You had prepared me to entertain a favorable opinion of him, but I thought the one half was not told me. Dignity with ease, and complacency, the Gentleman and Soldier look agreeably blended in him. Modesty marks every line and feature of his face. . . .

There has been a little Expedition this week to Long Island. There has been before several attempts to go on but 3 men of war lay near, and cutters all round the Island that they could not succeed. A number of whale boats lay at Germantown; 300 volunteers commanded by one Capt. [Benjamin] Tupper came on Monday evening [July 10] and took the boats, went on and brought off [f] 70 odd Sheep, 15 head of cattle, and 16 prisoners 13 of whom were sent by Simple Sapling to mow the Hay which they had very badly executed. They were all asleep in the house and barn when they were taken. There were 3 women with them. Our Heroes came off [f] in triumph not being observed by their Enemies. This spirited up other[s]. They could not endure the thought that the House and barn should afford them any shelter. They did not destroy them the night before for fear of being discovered. Capt. [Silas] Wild of this Town with about 25 of his company, Capt. Gold [Gould] of Weymouth with as many of his, and some other volunteers to the amount of an 100, obtained leave to go on and destroy the Hay together with the House and barn and in open day in full view of the men of war they set off [f] from the Moon so call'd covered by a number of men who were placed there, went on, set fire to the Buildings and Hay. A number of armed cutters immediately Surrounded the Island, fired upon our Men. They came off [f] with a hot and continued fire upon them, the Bullets flying in every direction and the Men of Wars boats plying them with small arms. Many in this Town who were spectators expected every moment our Men would all be sacrificed, for sometimes they were so near as to be called to and damned by their Enemies

and orderd to surrender yet they all returnd in safty, not one Man even wounded. Upon the Moon we lost one Man from the cannon on board the Man of War. On the Evening of the same day a Man of War came and anchord near Great Hill, and two cutters came to Pig Rocks. It occasiond an alarm in this Town and we were up all Night. They remain there yet, but have not ventured to land any men.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 245–250.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

[Extract]

Preston Boston 16 July 1775.

Sir, The *Falcon* sailed the 20 of June with a Transport to Piscatagua, and on the 30 returned to Boston with the Cannon and Ordnance Stores according to the inclosed List from Fort William and Mary. I transmit a Copy of Governor Wentworths Letter on this Occasion.

The *Charlotte* Sloop, mentioned in my letter May 13 to be hired as a Pacquet or Advice Boat, sailed the 30th of last Month with Dispatches from the Governor, myself and the other Departments of Government, for the different Ports along the Continent as low as Charles Town in South Carolina, from thence she is to cross to the Bahamas, and return to Boston.

Captain [William] Duddingstone in the *Senegal*, whom I had stationed at Casco Bay, and to whose particular attention I had recommended the Ship *Minerva*, Thomas Coulson, Master, returned with that Vessel the 1st instant to Boston. I have in a former Letter acquainted you that the *Minerva* was built at Falmouth for a Mast Ship, and that a Vessel brought her rigging Sails and other Materials from England; from the time of her being launched, some of his Majesty's Squadron have constantly protected her and the Store Vessel from being destroyed. Disappointed by the Rebels of getting Masts at Piscatagua, Mr Coulson returned to Falmouth to endeavour to procure a Cargo for England. It was absolutely impossible; and such preparations were making to destroy her, that Captain Duddingstone at the Masters earnest Intreaty returned with him again to Boston. Soon after the *Senegal* arrived General [Thomas] Gage applied to me for Convoy to four Transports and three or four Sloops his Excellency was sending to procure fuel for the Army: I ordered the *Senegal* upon this Service, and she sailed immediately for Penobscot Bay with her Convoy the 10th instant.

By Captain Duddingstone I received the disagreeable News that the *Margueritta* hired Schooner had been attacked and taken by the Rebels; I acquainted you in my Letter June 16 with her being sent Convoy with some Vessels appointed to bring firewood for his Majesty's Service at Boston. This Vessel except that she had no Carriage Guns, was well appointed; She had Swivels, Musquets, Pistols, Hand Grenadoes, manned with twenty of the best Men in the *Preston* and commanded by a very good Midshipman. The only Account I have yet seen is contained in the inclosed News Papers, but there is no doubt of its being a true Report.

The 28th Captain [Tyringham] Howe in the *Glasgow* sailed with Orders to cruize three weeks from the back of Nantucket Shoals to the West end of Long Island for the Security of Transports expected with Troops from Ireland, then to

proceed to Rhode Island and put himself under the Command of Captain [James] Wallace of his Majesty's Ship *Rose*.

. . . Captain Wallace has sent round a Sloop with Flour and Sugar, a Seizure of 45 Hogsheads of Rum taken in different Boats, and a small Vessel with Refreshments; he acquaints me that the Assembly at Rhode Island have voted 500 men more for the Rebellion, struck off £10,000 additional money, and ordered Fort Island to be taken possession of. The latter will be prevented if possible. I transmit a Copy of one of Captain Wallace's Letters inclosing an Association of some of the Principal People in Rhode Island. Other Accounts say that seven Sail of Brigs and Sloops are at Providence from 14 to 8 Guns, well manned, and that they have nearly finished two large row Boats for 24 Oars and two prow Guns in each.

. . . In Consequence of my Orders for that purpose Captain [George] Vandeput employs the *Kingsfisher* cruising in the Sound and off the Hook occasionally, with orders to seize and send to Boston all Vessels laden with provisions, Melasses and Salt, Flour, Grain &c. Captain Vandeput acquaints me further that there are many who wish to keep the peace in New York on account of their property, that several of these have got into Committees and the Provincial Congress, thro' whose influence perhaps it is that as yet the Kings Ships have met with no difficulty in getting the provisions required. I transmit an Extract from one of Captain Vandeput's Letters merely to shew what dependence there is upon the professions of these People, and the Deceit and Cunning with which they manage their Affairs.

Captain [John] Macartney of the *Mercury* acquaints me that at the end of thirteen days from the time of his sailing from Boston, he spoke to the *Spy* Transport with part of the 43d Regiment and sent her to Boston, the same day he met the *Lord Hyde* Pacquet and anchored with her at Sandy Hook the 16th and delivered her into the care of Captain James Montagu of the *Kingsfisher*, who convoyed her to Town the next day. Captain Macartney after cruising a few days returned again to the Hook, and as the Transports arrived assisted them to Water, which they were all in want of, and sent them to Boston.

Captain [John] Collins, in a Letter dated *Nautilus* at Sea June 30, acquaints me that he had convoyed the Schooner with the Spaniards and their money going to Cadiz, together with the Ship *Thomas* bound to London, Fifty Leagues East of Cape Cod, and that he had left them safe on the 18th with a fair Wind to continue their Voyages; that he got on his station the 24th fell in with four Transports, and learning from a Pilot Boat the *Mercury* was at the Hook he went in, and having delivered his Pacquet to Captain Macartney proceeded in search of the Transports not arrived. The *Mercury* sailed soon after the [for] Virginia.

Captain [Francis] Parry of the *Cruizer* at North Carolina acquaints me, by Letter dated June 1st that the people in this Province are very violent, that it had been proposed in a Committee to man a number of Vessels and attack the *Cruizer*, that he doth not expect to get any more provisions there, and that the last Vessels which supplied him, would have been unloaded if she staid till the Morning. I inclose a Copy of a Letter to Captain Parry from the Captain of Fort Johnstone,

who received from the *Cruizer* two Barrels and half of Powder; and Captain Parry intends to remain near the Fort with his Majesty's Sloop.

Governor [Josiah] Martin, in a Letter to me dated North Carolina New bern May 27, 1775, wishes to have a Cutter, drawing not more than 7 or 8 feet Water at most, to be near the place of his Residence, where he represents himself to be with a few friends to Government totally helpless and destitute of Protection.

I inclose Copies of Letters from Lord Dunmore to myself and Captain Geo. Montagu, also an Extract of a Letter from Captain Montagu acquainting me that by desire of Lord Dunmore he had sent the *Magdalen* to England with his Excellencys Dispatches to the Secretary of State. I cannot at this Distance judge of the necessity for such a Measure, but submit to their Lordship's Consideration that no part of the Squadron ought at any time to be sent away without the Commander in Chief's Order, unless the Service is of a very pressing Nature and no Vessel can be hired, in which an Officer might carry Dispatches not safe to be trusted with the Master. The sending his Majesty's Ships or Vessels home from their Stations express with a Governors Dispatches, is more likely to happen during the rebellion in America than at any other time; therefore if the Governors of other Provinces have nearly the same Accounts to transmit, should apply to the Captains on their Stations to proceed immediately to England, and they follow Captain Montagu's Example, the Coast may be left entirely unguarded and every kind of contraband Trade carried on with Impunity, while the Commander in chief is totally unacquainted for some time with the Disposal of his Majesty's Ships under his Command, for whose proceedings he is to be accountable. This is likewise the Season and Crisis when a much greater number of Kings Ships and Vessels than are now on the Station could be employed to very great Advantage for his Majesty's Service. I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 141-147, MassHS Transcript.

WILLIAM REYNOLDS TO GEORGE F. NORTON ¹

Dear Norton

[York] Virginia 16th July 1775

I wrote you fully 25th May P the *Bell* Capt Moodie since which I have not the pleasure of a letter from you. I shou'd have wrote you by Capt Esten who sailed a few days since but we were then in some Confusion from a report of the Arrival of some Troops, which proved false, in a few hours after the Express went from this Town we had 120 Men down to assist us if we had found it necessary. for my part I dont apprehend they can spare any from Boston, from the last Accounts they have warm work there for particular News. I must beg leave to refer you to the Gentleman who will deliver this, & to the papers sent you herewith. Capt Esten carried home a passenger whom no American ought to notice, he has behaved in a very unbecomeing manner here & is despied by every Friend to his Country

I have taken the liberty of giving you this hint, that you may not be a stranger to his Character. I shall expect if no other opportunity offers you will write me now & then by the packet. I have not to add except my best wishes for your health & happiness in which I am joined by Mrs Reynolds. I am &c.

1. William Reynolds Letter Book, LC.

"THE PEOPLE" TO JOSIAH MARTIN, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA ¹

Sir,

Brunswick, July 16th 1775.

As the Establishment of Fort Johnston was intended to protect the Inhabitants of Cape Fear River from all invasions of a foreign Enemy in times of War, and during the Peace has been supported at a very great expence to this Province, and not only to prevent contagious and infectious disorders, but to aid and support the Trade and Navigation thereof, and where as by the conduct of the Captain of the said Fort most of these salutary ends have been entirely defeated, and added to this as by incontestible proof, we can make appear that not only the private property of individuals has been cruelly and illegally invaded and detained by the most atrocious injuries, were by the said Captain intended and in some degree carried into execution contrary to every principle of justice and humanity, and dangerous to the lives and property of the Inhabitants of this Province, we herewith beg leave to lay before your Excellency a state of some of those facts which have come to our knowledge, Viz his wanton detention of Vessels applying for Bills of health, his threats of vengeance against Magistrates whose opinion in the execution of their office he happened to disapprove, his sitting in defiance the High Sheriff of the County in the execution of his office, and treating the King's Writs served on him for just debts (which both as a Subject and a Soldier it was his duty to obey) with the shamefull contempt of wiping his backside with them, His unparalleled Injustice in detaining and Embezzling a large quantity of goods which having been unfortunately wrecked near the Fort, had from every principle of humanity the highest claims to his attention and care for the benefit of the unhappy sufferers, who legally demanded and frequently solicited in their behalf, his base encouragement of Slaves eloped from their Masters, feeding and employing them, and his atrocious and horrid declaration that he would excite them to an Insurrection.

These circumstances Sir, and many others too tedious to enumerate, could not but excite the indignation and resentment of the publick, but grievous as they were we would for a time still have submitted to them in firm reliance, that the first meeting of an Assembly would have relieved us, but upon being informed of Captain [John] Collet's intention of dismantling the Fort, erected and supported at the real expence of this Colony for its Protection and Defence, we collected ourselves together in order to prevent it, but finding upon enquiry that he had already dismantled it nothing more is left us than to recover the Cannon thrown over the walls and left in a situation which must entirely ruin them, to a place where attention and care shall preserve them for His Majesty when His service shall require them, because with that we conceive the safety of this Province is intimately connected, with this intention we shall proceed to Fort Johnston and that our conduct may not be misunderstood by your Excellency we have thought proper to give you this information and persuade ourselves we shall not meet obstruction from any person or persons whatsoever in the execution of a design so essential to His Majesty's Service and the Publick utility.

N.B. A Fresh instance of his violence in Captain Collet has now come to our knowledge, a glaring invasion of private property in unwarrantably seizing a

Quantity of Corn, the more inexcusable as provisions have never been withheld from him when ever he would pay for them, which provisions so seized we beg your Excellency would order him to restore to the proper owner, as also any Slave or Slaves the property of other persons which he now harbours and detains.

We are your Excellency's Most obedient Humble Servants

THE PEOPLE

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 102, 103.

GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

Cruizer Sloop of War in Cape Fear River
No Carolina, July 16th 1775

Since my former Letters to your Lordship the continual reports of the People designing to make themselves Masters of Fort Johnston, & Captain [John] Collet's just and well grounded Representations that he would not pretend to hold the place, with only three or four men that he could depend upon, against a multitude said to be collecting to attack it, determined me to dismount the Artillery that is considerable in value, and to lay it under cover of the *Cruizer's* Guns. I have also my Lord withdrawn the little remainder of the Garrison, with the shot, and movable Stores, and shipped them on Board the vessel lately arrived from Boston, to take a lading of Naval Stores here, pursuant to a Charter party, but the person to whom she is addressed having refused to load her, because she had been employed as a Transport in the King's Service to carry artillery to Boston, the Master as a matter of favour to me, has received the remnant of the Garrison of Fort Johnston, and some of its Stores on Board, while he lays here to accomplish the Days of his Charter Party engagement, after which if no change of circumstances happens in the mean time, I shall think it necessary to engage the Vessel in the King's Service, for the purpose above mentioned, in which I hope your Lordship will hold me justified.²

Fort Johnston My Lord, is a most contemptible thing, fit neither for the place of Arms, or an Asylum for the friends of Government, on account of the weakness and smallness of it, so that the keeping of it is of little consequence, and the Kings Artillery which is all that is good about it, will be as well secured under cover of the *Cruizer's* Guns, at less charge, as upon the Walls of that little wretched place; if I could furnish it with a sufficient Garrison, which I could now only collect out of the Highlanders upon whom, by drawing forth a number of them for such a service, I should immediately turn the resentment of the whole Country, before they are provided with the means of defence, and by that step perhaps frustrate my best and fairest expectations, formed upon the strength and good dispositions of that people in this Colony. A further cogent reason with me for disarming Fort Johnston was, that its Artillery, which is heavy might in the hands of the Mob, be turned against the King's Ship and so annoy her as to oblige her to quit her present station which is most convenient in all respects.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 96–98.

2. The transport *Sally*; see Journal of the *Cruizer*, July 20, 1775.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Cruizer*, FRANCIS PARRY, COMMANDING ¹

July 75

Moor'd off the Fort [Johnston in Cape Fear River]

Saturday 16th Modt & fair people employ'd geting off the stores from the fort ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

2. The journal for the next day reported similar employment.

17 July

"REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER" ¹

July 1775 at 8 A M a party of men with an Officer appear'd under arms, on
Monday 17th Kittery Hill, opposite the Ship; sent the Lieut to demand the Reason of their gathering together & to Inform their Leaders if they did not disperse they would be fired at by the Ship or any other armed men we shou'd see in that Province. The Captn of the Rebell guard told the Lieut they were order'd by the Congress to post armed men all along the sea Coast to prevent the Cattle being taken off and in the Night time to make all boats that were passing within Musquett shott to come on shore on pain of being fired at by the same guard shou'd they refuse, and that he (Captn Shapley) whou'd do his utmost to put the orders of the Congress into execution.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE, HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Falcon* ¹

You are hereby required and directed to put to Sea as soon as possible in his Majesty's Sloop [*Falcon*] under your Command and cruize between Cape Cod and Cape Anne in order to carry into Execution the late Acts for restraining the Trade of the Colonies And to seize and send to Boston all Vessels with Arms Ammunition, Provisions, Flour, Grain, Salt, Melasses, Wood, &c. &c. And you are also hereby required and directed to look into the Harbour within the Bay of Boston, and to anchor therein and sail again at such uncertain times as you think are most likely to deceive and intercept the Trade of the Rebels.

And whereas there are many reports of armed Vessels being fitted out to annoy the Trade of his Majestys loyal Subjects: In case of your meeting any such Rebel Pyrates either in Harbour or at Sea, you are hereby required and directed to use every means in your power to take or destroy them.

You are to anchor once in ten days in Nantasket road for further Orders.

Given under my hand on Board his Majesty's ship *Preston* at Boston the 17 July 1775.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 147, 148, MassHS Transcript.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, JULY 17, 1775

Newport, July 17.

Last Saturday [July 15] the *King-fisher* sloop of war arrived here, from a cruise up the sound, having driven one or two vessels ashore, and sent one brig to Boston.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT, TO MAJOR GENERAL
PHILIP SCHUYLER ¹

[Extract]

Lebanon July 17th 1775.

I have recd from Col. [Benjamin] Hinman & others very favourable Accounts of the Disposition of the Canadians towards the General Cause, and their Desire that our Army may penetrate into their Province &c Suppose you are fully acquainted with their Intelligence. I shall therefore only trouble you with some Information I have recd from Capt. John Bigelow a Gentleman of Harford who was lately sent by our Assembly into Canada as an Escort to some Ladies taken at Skeensborough who we tho't proper to return to their Friends in that Province. He is returned and informs that there are about 350 Kings Troops at St Johns, 100 at Montreal, and 40 at Chamblee. Those at St John's keep a good Look out, have picketted an Acre or two of Ground, in which they have some Field Pices not yet mounted. He understood there were a Number of Batteaus, and two floating Batteries building just below St Johns. The officers boasted to him the Number of Canadians & Indians they were able to raise – but he says, tis certain they are not sure of one Man. . . . was informed that the Canadians almost to a Man are praying for our People to come into their Country – or they must be obliged for their own Safety to join the King's Troops. He did not see more than 6 or 7 Indians at St Johns

1. President's Letter Book, III, LC.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO CAPTAIN JOHN MACKIBBIN ¹

Sir

New London July 17 1775

I wrote you the 12th Instant, to which I Refer you Since that I am inform'd that there is a Large Quantity of Powder Arived at the Cape ² And I would have you in Case you Can Clear out go Directly for the Cape and when you Arrive there you may Very Easily know wether you Can have Liberty to Trade there or not And if you Can Purchase Powder to the Amount of Your Cargoe, and if You Cannot trade there you Can agree for the Powder to be brought Down to the Mole if there is no powder Purchase Melasses Sugar & Coffee and Make all the Dispatch in your Power, so wish you a Good Voyage and Safe Return to Your Frind & Owner

Nath^l Shaw Jun^r

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

2. Cape Francois, Hispaniola.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO THOMAS & ISAAC WHARTON, PHILADELPHIA
MERCHANTS ¹

Gentlemen

New London July 17th 1775

I wrote you the 12th Instant that Capt John Mackibbin in the Sloop *Black Joke* with a Cargo of Sugar Melasses and Coffee had Sail'd for Phila hope by the time this Comes to Hand he may be Arived. Have Nothing more to add Only hope You'l be Able to get the Sloop Out or at least Clear'd out before the times Expires for Clearing Out to a Forreign Port if it Cannot be Done,² if You Can Conveniently Send me Two Hundred half Joanesis by [Edward] Chappell I Should be Glad I Am Gentlemen [&c.]

Nath^l Shaw Jun^r

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

2. Apparently the Whartons found no suitable cargo for the West Indies, for the *Black Joke* was dispatched back to New London, and sailed from there for Jamaica in September with a cargo of horses, oats and onions. She was intercepted by H.M.S. *Rose*, and sent into Boston where vessel and cargo were condemned and sold.

New York Gazette, MONDAY, JULY 17, 1775

New York, July 17.

Capt. William Stewart, of the Ship *Mary*, from Bristol, on his Passage . . . July 3d, in Lat. 39,3, Long. 68,43, spoke Capt. [Henry] Collins, in the Schooner *Magdalen*, with Lady Dunmore and Family on board from Virginia, bound Home.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, July 17, 1775

A letter from General [Philip] Schuyler, with sundry papers were laid before the Congress, and read, and the same being taken in consideration,

Resolved, That the president write to Genl [David] Wooster directing him to send in the most expeditious manner one thousand of the Connecticut forces under his command to Albany, there to remain encamped, until they shall receive orders from General Schuyler as to their future proceedings.

Resolved, That a commissary of stores and provisions be appointed for the New York department, during the present campaign.

By un[animous] vote Walter Livingston was chosen.

That a deputy quarter master general be appointed for the said department. Mr. Donald Campbell unanimously elected.

Ordered, That Mr Campbell, have the rank of Colonel in the army.

That a deputy muster master be appointed for sd department.

Mr. Gunning Bedford elected.

Resolved, That the Convention of New York be desired to recommend to Genl Schuyler, a proper person for a deputy adjutant general or a Brigade Major, for the army in the New York department.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 186.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 17th [1775]

1st. *Resolved*, That Capt'n Henry Dougherty be appointed to the Command of one of the Boats now building, and that Cap't. John Rice be appointed to the Command of one other of the Boats now Building.

The Committee appointed by the 2nd Resolve of the 15th inst. Report, that they went to the Jerseys and Conversed, with many of the Inhabitants, who seem willing to give every Assistance in their power, that they will immediately furnish some Loggs for building the Machines for the Obstruction of the Navigation, And that they propose to man one or two of the Boats for the Defence of the River, And that some of the Gent'n will in a few days attend this Board.

Cap't. Tench Francis and Cap't. Lieut. [Richard] Bache, made application to this Board for 30 or 40 Rifle Barrel Guns, for a Number of Men in their Company who have not Rifles, neither can they afford to purchase them.

2nd. *Resolved* That Mr. Robert Morris be requested to apply to Capt. Tench Francis, and Capt. Lt. Bache, to assist him in providing Eighty good Rifles for the use of the Boats now Building, a part of which are to be put into the hands of such Men as Capt. Francis for this County, and Colo. [Anthony] Wayne, of Chester County, may engage to go as Minute Men on Board the Boats when Required.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 287, 288.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee 17 July 1775.

Mr Thomas Place appeared before the Committee and produced an Invoice of a Cargo consisting of Salt and Earthen Ware shipt by James Gildart onboard the *Totness* Capt Warring amounting to £220.18.4½ Stg On Motion ordered that the Proceedings in the Maryland Gazette of the 13 July respecting the ship *Johnson* and declaring James Gildart of Liverpoole an Enemy to the Liberties of America be republisht in the two Baltimore News Papers, And a Question arising how far breaking off all Commercial Intercourse with James Gildart shoud effect any Connections with Johnson Gildart or Ashburner & Place, or whether they ought not to be included therein as Partners with him, After some debates thereon it was agreed to be referd to a further Meeting

1. *Balt. Com.*, LC.

LORD DUNMORE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Onboard His Majesty's Sloop the *Otter*
in Virginia 17th July 1775.

Sir As I have received every Assistance from Captain [George] Montagu which it was possible to expect from Zeal and Assiduity, it is particularly unfortunate to his Majesty's Service that that Gentleman should be succeeded in the Command

of his Majesty's Ships here by Captain [John] Macartney who seems to be actuated altogether by Principles totally different, and to have principally at heart the making Friends among his Majesty's greatest Enemies in this Country. Hitherto instead of aiding me, he has very much prejudiced all the Measures which I have thought requisite to adopt for restoring his Majesty's lost Authority in this Government; and his Conduct has been of such a Nature that I foresee it will be impossible for me ever, with propriety to apply to him for any Assistance if I should require it of him; And as I think him utterly unfit for such a Command, I hope therefore You will by the most speedy means relieve him or send a different Person for the Command. I must refer You to Captain Montagu for particulars.

Sign'd Dunmore

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 Moored Point Comfort N E Willoughby's E b S Newport
Monday 17. News: W b S in 8 fathoms
at ½ past Noon loosed sails to dry, and got out part of Lord Dunmore's baggage on board the Tender with his servants to go to Norfolk

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 Elizabeth River [Virginia]
Monday 17 at 9 A M Unmoored & hove short on the Best Bower. at 11 weighed. at Noon Towing up the South River. Variable Weather. at 1 P M anchored with the Best Bower in 4 fathom Water off Sprowls Wharf to protect the *William* Merchant Ship taken into Government service by Lord Dunmore.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

DEPOSITION OF SAMUEL COOPER, MASTER OF THE SHIP *Unity* ¹

Samuel Cooper Master of the Ship *Unity* belonging to Plymouth in the Kingdom of Great Britain being sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, Deposeth and Saith,

That on or about the 17th day of July last he this Deponent together with Captain [Edward] Cheeseman Master of the Brigantine *Success* coming in this Deponent's boat from Wilmington to the Flatts in Cape Fear River it being the same day on which a certain Colonel [John] Ashe sailed for Brunswick in Roger's Sloop, which had been pressed for the purpose of carrying him and a number of armed men. They overtook the said Sloop and a certain Mr Robinson ² as this Deponent hath heard and being informed then on board the said sloop, hailed this Deponent's boat and informed them that Colonel Ashe desired they would come alongside and drink some Toddy which they complied with. That while

this Deponent and his Company were on board the said sloop the persons appearing to be officers and part of the armed men then on board her in general avowed that their Expedition was with intent to take His Majesty's Fort Johnston and the said Robinson in the hearing of Col. Ashe and the other officers requested this Deponent's people in the Boat (being four in number) to hold themselves in readiness to assist in the glorious Enterprize or words to that effect and asked if they would go with them, his people replied they had fought for the King on board a Man of War and when they chose to fight it should be there again. This Deponent saith, that while they were drinking some Toddy, the said Robinson said he would give them a Toast and accordingly said Damnation to all Tories and that Tory the Governor, meaning the Governor of Fort Johnston, Captain [John] Collet, and if you want fresh provisions we will send you his Quarters (meaning the Governors) up to the Flatts. This Deponent furthur saith that about midnight of the 17th aforesaid a certain Captain Smith brought a letter on board this Deponent's Ship and having procured a light this Deponent read the contents and found the substance thereof to be, that Colonel Ashe requested the Masters and Commanders of the Ships at the Flatts to assist him with what Boats, Men and Swivil Guns they could spare, in the glorious cause of liberty, which letter was signed John Ashe. And this Deponent further saith that on the 16th of the said month of July, this Deponent gave leave to his Mate Boatswain and Carpenter to go to Brunswick to see an old shipmate on board one of the Vessels then lately arrived from England, saith he was informed that on their return they were ordered by a person on board a small schooner full of armed men to bring too which they neglecting they were fired upon by some of the armed people and not bringing too were again fired at, they then thought it more safe to go alongside the Schooner, and severely reprehended them for so cowardly an act as firing on an unarmed Boat, the fellows excused themselves by saying they had no intention to hurt them but only to frighten them as they knew they were Englishmen and would be frightened at a flash in the pan, they then forced this Deponent's People to land the armed Men with their Boat

(Signed) Sam^l Cooper

1. Saunders comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 130, 131. The deposition is undated, but was taken some time in August. It was included with Governor Martin's letter of August 28, 1775, to Lord Dartmouth. It is given here under date of July 17, 1775, as it relates to occurrences of that and the preceding day.
2. Probably John Robeson, a member of the Committee of Safety of Wilmington, North Carolina.

DEPOSITION OF WILLIAM TODD, MASTER OF THE SHIP *Duke of York* ¹

William Todd Commander of the Ship *Duke of York* of and belonging to Whitehaven in the Kingdom of Great Britain and being duly Sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith:

That on the 9th of July being on his way to Wilmington to advise Mr Cruden of his arrival in Cape Fear River, he called at Brunswick and was there asked to dinner by Mr Dry, Collector of His Majesty's Customs at that Port. That he accepted his invitation accordingly, and after dinner he heard with

astonishment the said Mr Dry toast several times "success to the American Arms," adding that he wished ardently from his soul they might conquer. That he this Deponent drank his glass twice, without repeating any Toast, but being asked the third round whether he had any objection to the Toast he drank it fearing his opposition might prove injurious to the owners of his Ship. That on the 17th of the last month (July) this Deponent being in bed on board his Ship lying at the Flatts was waked by one of his People about midnight and told there was a man come on board who wanted to see him. That this Deponent immediately got up and went on Deck where he was presented by a person (of the name of Smith as he has been informed) with a letter which he told him was from Col. [John] Ashe, which this Deponent read and found it addressed to all Captains and Masters of Ships lying at the flatts purporting that they were requested to send all their men, boats and several guns to assist in their glorious design of burning the Transport² with fire rafts which they had prepared for that purpose, adding that he hoped the Master of Ships would not be wanting in giving the utmost assistance upon the occasion, that those who went upon the Expedition should be well rewarded. This Deponent declared that the above mentioned was signed John Ashe, which having read three times over and asked leave to keep it or to take a copy of it which was refused, he returned it to the messenger who brought it desiring him to make the Deponents complements to Col. Ashe and to let him know that he could not conveniently spare his men, boats or swivil guns; that if his men chose to go upon the intended service he could not control them, but it was out of his power and he could not command them to go, and that if Colonel Ashe meant to employ force to take his boats he had not strength to withstand his superior force, upon which answer the Messenger retired from this Deponent's ship. And further this Deponent saith not.

(Signed) William Todd.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 131, 132. This deposition, like that of Samuel Cooper, is undated. It was taken at the same time as Cooper's, and enclosed by Governor Martin in his letter of August 28, 1775, to Lord Dartmouth. Martin refers to Todd by name, in telling of the deposition.
2. The transport *Sally*; see *Journal of the Cruizer*, July 20, 1775.

DEPOSITION OF EDWARD CHEESEMAN, MASTER OF THE BRIGANTINE *Success*¹

Edward Cheeseman, Commander of the Brigantine *Success* off and belonging to the Port of Pool in Great Britain, being duly sworn . . . on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith,

That on the 16th day of July last, he the Deponent together with Captain [Samuel] Cooper of the Ship *Unity* and Mr. Bowan, were going from Wilmington to the Flatts and overtook Col. [John] Ashe, who had embarked before them at Wilmington with a party of armed men on board Roger's boat which was pressed for that purpose; that on coming up to the said Sloop they were hailed by a person on board her and invited to go alongside to drink some Toddy with Col. Ashe; that the Deponent and his companions aforementioned went on board

the said Sloop and while they were there they heard the purpose of their Expedition declared to be to take or to destroy Fort Johnston and His Majesty's Sloop *Cruizer*; that a certain person on board of the name of Robinson as this Deponent thinks, in the hearing of Col Ashe and his officers, desired the seamen in Captain Cooper's Boat to hold themselves in readiness to assist them in the glorious enterprize which they refused &c. The Deponent further declares that the same person after asking him and Captain Cooper whether they wanted any fresh beef, and being answered in the affirmative, said they would send them the quarters of the Governor to the shipping at the flatts for fresh provisions. And further this Deponent saith not.

(Signed) Edward Cheeseman

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 132, 133. This deposition was taken September 1, 1775, and enclosed in Governor Martin's letter of September 12, 1775, to Lord Dartmouth. Cheeseman's date of the same episode described by Captain Cooper is one day earlier, but is used here as of July 17, 1775.

DEPOSITION OF JOHN MARTIN, MASTER OF THE SHIP *Liberty*¹

John Martin Commander of the Ship *Liberty*, Property of and belonging to the Port of Belfast in the Kingdom of Ireland, being duly sworn . . . on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, depose and saith,

That he the Deponent a day or two before the destruction of Fort Johnston by the People headed by John Ashe heard them gasconading and boasting of their intended expedition to destroy Fort Johnston, His Majesty's Sloop *Cruizer* and the Transport on board which Captain [John] Collet and the Garrison of Fort Johnston was embarked,² which last seemed to be the principal object of their rage. That on Monday morning the 17th day of July last about 2 o'clock a certain person named Smith came on board the Deponents Ship lying at the Flatts and asked for the Master. That the Deponent being informed thereof by his Mate, rose from his bed and directing a light to be struck desired the Messenger to walk down into the Cabin, where he delivered a letter to the Deponent signed John Ashe Col. and directed to all Masters of Ships then lying at the Flatts the substance of which was that Col. Ashe required them to send all the boats and men they could spare immediately to assist in the glorious enterprise they had in hand. That Smith the bearer of the letter told the Deponent they were preparing Fire Rafts and wanted the Ships boats and hands to tow them down the river. That the Deponent after perusing the Letter several times told Smith the messenger that he had business enough for his Boats and Men that he could not answer for the Disposition of his People but believed they would not willingly engage in the projected Expedition in which opinion he was afterwards confirmed by the unanimous Declaration of his Crew.

Signed John Martin

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 133. This deposition was taken September 4, 1775 and enclosed in Governor Martin's letter of September 12, to Lord Dartmouth. It is used here under date of July 17, 1775, the day of the occurrence described in it.
2. The transport *Sally*; see Journal of the *Cruizer*, July 20, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety. [Charleston] Monday 17th July, 1775.

Mr President acquainted the Council that he had dispatched the following Letters to Beaufort, per the Sloop *Endeavour*, J. Adinger Master, whom he agreed with to perform that service for Thirty Pounds Currency, viz:

Danl. DeSaussure Esqr

16th July 1775.

Sir You are requested by the Council of Safety to deliver the inclosed Letter to Mr. Tunes Tibout immediately upon Receipt of it, and with as little stir as possible to the public Eye.

The Vessel in which it is forwarded is the Sloop *Endeavour*, Capt. Joshua Vinel,² who will say he is bound to Georgia & East Florida and Mr Tibout will beg a Passage in her.

The Service which requires such a Management is of Importance, and you are desired to speak of it in the general Manner in which it is communicated as little as possible.

I am Sir [&c.]

Tunes Tibout

In the Council of Safety

Charles Town, 16th July, 1775.

Sir, I have [instructions] from the Council of Safety to request you to repair to Charles Town immediately and to be prepared for an Excursion by Water chiefly, in which you will probably be engaged three or four Weeks. Capt. [Clement] Lempriere will have the general Superintendence of this Enterprize, and he is particularly desirous of wanting the [company] and [pleasure] of your Assistance.

This Letter will be delivered to you by Mr DeSaussure who will report that the Vessel in which it will be carried is bound to Georgia or East Florida – you will beg a passage in her and proceed without delay to Charles Town. It will be best to land in the Evening remote from public Observation, suppose at Col [Christopher] Gadsden's Wharf and come directly to my house, where you will meet a hearty Welcome. [?] you will perceive it is intended to keep this Matter a Secret. I have the Honor to be [&c.].

1. Laurens Collection, SCHS.

2. Why the name of Joshua Vinel is inserted as master instead of J. Adinger, is mystifying, particularly as DeSaussure, on July 18, in acknowledging receipt of the letter, states that it came by the hand of Mr. Adinger.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM PACKWOOD TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

My dear frind –

Cape Nicolas Mole July the 17 1775

These will in form you of my arovall hear the 9 Instant after lucking at Martiniqua Guadloop St Eustatius & could Not obtain one pound of molasses² under 6 Livers pr lb I could had the kings store oppend at bearster [Basse Terre] Guadloop & had wat quantey I would perviding I would a given 130 Jons³ pr thousand – thay take the advanteadg of our Necessety Mr Jenings wass at Portrico Wen I arovd at Statia, & on that acompt I could not gat my money Changd which I am afeard the consequence Will be grate varey lettlet molasses to be had at Statia and a fine of 1000 gdrs & 3 mounths Imprisenment

if aney dutch Merchat . . . in Statia should dispose of one pound to aney New England men pupleshtd at the Hage the 22d March 1775 – the said fine or act is in full fours through out all the dutch & dienish West Indys

Martiniqua entierly dreend of molasses. the last wass Sold at 5½ Livers pr lb Cap fransway ⁴ – Stoars and Kings Magerzens is trouley dreend on acompt of the greater caul for it. the last wass Sold at the Cap at 4 Livers pr lb and Verey ould I take passeadg to morrow for Port au Prince & gave grate Incureadgment of Suckcess thear & at pettey gavoner [Petit Goave], the South Side of this Island and I make no maner a dout but I will purchous my goods at 30 pr Cent les than aney that saled a bout the time I did, & be you a shoard that there is not a man in this world that will in deavour for prudant dispach then I will – the ned, Sir, for candels at present not grate, 3 Livers pr lb and no wanted hear it is sopsod thear is not les than 5000-bars of Sparmsety [Spermaceti] candels in the mole unSold Capt Foulser [Folger] from Nantucket arovd hear yesterday with 1700 boxes – every coind of perveshions in grate planty hear grate part of the *Macarones* pork of the last Voyage un Sold yeat — I have Sold Staves at 200 Livers pr thousand & had thay bin good could got 250 Lis which is all I have sold of the *Macarones* cargo – as yeat I under stand Capt Jonathan Leeds in the Schooner *defiance* Anchd in hear with a short passeadg from America with a cargo of horses bound to Lugan [Leogane] which is in good demand there or hear Molasses is Varey plantey hear at 20 Johns by this time you have reced the *Black Joke* as I under stand She has bin Saled about 4 weeks I am Varey much dispointd that Capt [John] McKibbin had not left letters if he did they have not bin delivd I am apt to think he did I have onley Receivd ourselves word for wat qnty of pervisions is left in their hands unsold – which I hope thay will prove honnest men – I have decierd my mate to Write to you, in my abstance, at all safe opertunetys as you can not Exspect to have many from me – be pleased to take care of my dear wife & children in my abstance my best Respects to your spouse fearther mother Tim &c. – and am Sir [&c.]

William Packwood

1. Shaw Collection, Packet No. 3, YUL.

2. Gunpowder. Molasses used to deceive any British vessel which might overhaul the *Macaroni*.

3. Johannes.

4. Cape Francois, Haiti.

18 July

COMMITTEE OF DEER ISLAND TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen We the Committee of Deer Iseland – Would inform you that July the 16th We were Alarmed by A Report that A Number of men of War Were Arived In Penopscut bay – we Amediately Sent out a Whale Boat to know the Certainty of What we had heard – but the first Boat; Returned and only Informed that they were Kings Ships – In the evening We sent of[f] a nother – Which Returned this morning with Inteligence; that their was one man of War, which mounted 20 guns – 4 Transport ships 3 or 4 Sloops which they could discover. These were Loading with Wood, on long Island alias Dylows Island – Which the People had been so Wicked on that Island to get out for them. – Alarmed at this the Inhabitants met and A Number Voluntarily agreed to go and defend it – Wee

wrote Letters to the Committees of the Neighbouring towns – sent of[f] dispatches with them – And doubt not but that they will be ready to go with our men tomorrow & to deffeat the attempt of our Cruel and unnatural Enemies to furnish themselves with Necessaries to Protract their Barbarous War – We expect also that they will before they leave us – take away our sheep cattle &c these they say (we are Informed) they will Pay for; – and we doubt not but they will now (as some of their servants have here to fore done) give a most extravagant Price for the same; but we hope Gentlemen that our Posterity shall not find that their fore fathers; When greatly distressed by want of Provitions of all most every kind; and Amunition also – that they were such sons of Esau; as to sell their birth rights for a mess of Pottage – we are very sensible they were not Purchasd so easy – but we are Put under the disagreeable Necessity of informing; that our defences cannot continue Long if we have not help, Provitions amunition; and men will be Absolutely necessary our Greatest exspectations are to keep the enemy In Play till our bearers Return – We have Relying on you; but our lives in our hands – and should not help Come We must exspect to be destroyed – but of your Redyness we doubt not to grant all that lies in your Power As We are embarqued all in one Common caus – we mean not to be awed by their frowns: and are Resolved never to be soothed by their flatteries – they Promise us Protection and Provitions if we will but furnish them all our lumber and other Necessaries which we usd to spare to People In the westward–. As we live at so great a distance we cannot see every order of Congress: We therefore would be glad Gentlemen of your written advise: And orders In what Method it is best for us to Conduct In this day of Darkness And distress–. We have In this and the Neighbouring towns Chose Delegates to Meet At Frenchmans Bey; the 19th of this month –. they are to Chuse for us one member, who is to act as An Agent for all these Parts at the Honourable Provincial Congress–. We should have imployed him; but Reflecting on that Proverb – While the grass Grows the Cattle Starve – We Waited not; but have sent of[f] this Dispatch as soon as We could–. We should also have waited for a advice & orders from you Gentlemen before we should have Recommendd any thing to have been done – But had we lain Still – the Ships would have been Loaded – and our Common enemy have been supplyd – We also are put under the melancholy Necessity – of Informing that We have just Receivd information that on some of the Islands they are indeavouring to sell Bacon and fresh meat–. but with Pleasure We tell this is not the General spirit – Patriotick virtue we hope is not yet at so low an ebb with us–. as to prefer self to the Publick – this Precious Jewel of love to our country, we trust delights to dwell – as well in the humble Cottage as In the most splendid Palace – for Further Particulars We Recommend you to Bearer the Revd. Joseph Patrick A yong Gentle who has appeared Ingaged In the Publick Cause In Both Publick and Private.

and to Capt Eaton who also is we trust A man that may [be] Rely'd on

Francis Haskell

Robert Nason

Nathan Dow

Josiah Crocket

Committee

Deer Island July the 18 1775

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, H.M.S. *Asia*
AT NEW YORK ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 18 July 1775.

I acknowledge the Receipt of your Letters June 25 and July 9, containing a pretty full Account of your transactions and proceedings with his Majesty's Ships under your Command, and communicating many particulars very necessary for my Knowledge. It has given me great satisfaction that the Kings Ships have assisted the Transports from England to water at the Hook, and have conveyed them to Boston, where they are all safe arrived except one, which I hope will be in Tomorrow. By whatever means we get Provisions it is extremely favorable at this time, as the Supply expected from England is not arrived, and it is absolutely impossible to spare one Ounce from hence.

I have received Letters from Captains [John] Macartney and [John] Collins, whom I hope by this time are at their respective Stations. The *Magdalen* is gone to England.

You must continue the *Kingsfisher* in the Sound, when she can be spared from other necessary Services. I have related to the Admiralty your Story of the [Provincial] Congress restoring, and the Connecticutians stealing again the Kings Stores at Turtle Bay.

The Volunteers for the Fleet are arrived, so are the five Men, part of the intended Highland Regiment and are enlisted in the Army. I am quite satisfied with your Conduct in moving the *Asia* to a Birth better adapted for the Security of the New Carriages, in sending the publick Dispatches by the Transport, and in detaining the Schooner, &c.

In regard to your wish for more positive Orders I am equally desirous of being authorized to give them. The restraining Acts forbid all Coasting Trade. All Persons illegally in Arms upon the Water are deemed Pirates, and every Aid or Assistance given or intended to be given to the Rebels is liable to be destroyed or seized and confiscated. So far I think the Laws are literally in our Favour. The necessities of the Army and Fleet authorize the detention of such Articles as they stand in need of; at present these are Provisions of all Kinds, Flour, Grain, Melasses, Oats, Hay, Straw. The Country Eastward of Boston is destitute of every Kind of Food, except Fish; If we are fortunate in cutting off Supplies, its Inhabitants must soon be in extreme Distress. You are already sufficiently authorized to seize and detain as aforementioned; On all other Occasions you must be governed by Circumstances, rememb'ring that at present nothing but the clearest necessity to prevent the loss of, or injury to, his Majesty's Ships or People entrusted to your Care, or to any others under your immediate Protection, will justify you acting offensively towards those you are among, but I hope soon to hear that Great Britain has determined upon the Measures to be followed, and that I shall receive Instructions accordingly.

I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 457-459, MassHS Transcript.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston July 18th: 1775 –

Sir, I am to acquaint you that I shall this Evening dispatch a Transport to New York, to take on board there such Men as may be inclined to come to this place, to serve His Majesty, I have Advice of a Ship lately arrived there from Scotland with a Number of Men, who would have been glad, to have an Opportunity to have been out of the way of being Obligated to take Arms on the Rebel side, two other Ships from Scotland are still expected, and as many good Men may be got out of them, I should be obliged to you to write to Captain [George] Vandeput to do his utmost in assisting the Officers sent, to procure as many of them as possible, and to send them round in the Transport ordered for that purpose, and to prevent their Landing to Join the Rebels

I am with Regard and Esteem Sir, &ca

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston 18 July 1775

I shall with great pleasure give Captain [George] Vandeput the directions Your Excellency desires, and I am very sure he will not suffer one emigrant to land after he has received Orders to the Contrary

I am Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO CAPTAIN DUNCAN CAMPBELL AND
LIEUTENANT SYMES ¹

You are hereby directed to embark on board the *Rebecca and Frances* transport, George Hastings, master, and proceed as fast as possible to New-York, where you are to receive on board your ship such men as may be inclined to serve his Majesty, and you are particularly to attend to the arrival of ships expected from Scotland, and to procure as many men out of them as you possibly can, and you are to do your endeavour not to suffer any of these emigrants to join the rebels on shore; and to give every encouragement to all the Scotch and other nations that will join you. Captain [George] Vandeput, of his Majesty's ship *Asia*, will give you all the assistance in his power, and with whom you will confer when there may be occasion; you will continue at New York as long as the service you are upon may require, when you are to return to this place with all expedition, bringing as many volunteers with you as you can procure.

Given under my hand at headquarters at Boston, this eighteenth day of July one thousand seven hundred and seventy five.

Thos Gage

By His Excellency's command Samuel Kemble

1. Almon, ed., *Remembrancer*, II, 123, 124.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, H.M.S. *Asia*
AT NEW YORK ¹

Sir

Boston July 18. 1775

As every stratagem must be used to procure provisions at this Juncture, the Contractor for the Navy at Boston has ordered his Correspondent Mr Wm McAdams at New York to charter a Vessel from 80 to 100 Tons, and to put on Board her Bread, Beef, Peas, Oatmeal, and Rice. These Provisions are to be consigned to John Grant Esqr Spanish Town Jamaica, and the Vessel of course will be cleared for that place. No person in New York can possibly know but she really is intended for Jamaica, not even Mr McAdams himself, who is ordered to write an Account of his Proceedings on this Business, And to draw upon London for the Amount. When this Vessel so laden goes down the River you must seize her, and putting a sufficient Strength on board send her to Boston; but I desire this may not be done till she is at the Hook, that the knowledge of this transaction may not get to New York and prevent our future Success, for which Reason all the People and the Master must be sent hither. If the *Kingfisher* could sail at the same time with the provision Vessel, and alter her destination at Sea, it would be better and blank Letters directed to Jamaica might be put on board her early from your Ship, so that no Suspicion would arise of your detaining her upon any supposed Exigency of Service. I am &c

Sam Graves.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 150, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES, HIS MAJESTY'S
SCHOONER *St. Lawrence* ¹

Whereas his majesty's armed Schooner *Margueritta* was on the 11th of last month attacked and taken by rebels in a sloop & schooner from Mechias, after an obstinate engagement in which the commander of the said schooner *Margueritta* & one Marine were Killed and four wounded, and the rest being made Prisoners were carried by the Rebels into the Country; and whereas I have undoubted Information that these pirate Vessels and several others are now cruising about Mechias in the Bay of Fundy, and to the Southward as far as Sheepscut River, with intent to take and destroy all Vessels and People employed in bringing Supplies to the Kings Army and Fleet at Boston, You are hereby required and directed to take Lieut [George] Dawson in his Majesty's Schooner *Hope* under your Command, and proceed together in search of these Pyrates or any others you can [get] Intelligence of, whom you are to do your utmost to take, sink, burn or destroy by all means in your power, wherever you find them, and all persons who shall be actually aiding and assisting them. You are to take the two Transports named in the Margin under your Convoy and see them safe into Annapolis Royal, and then proceed to Windsor where there are six or more Vessels laden with Cattle, Sheep and other Provisions for the use of the Kings Forces at Boston, which Vessels cannot sail without Convoy: You are either to bring these Vessels away directly, or acquaint their Masters when you will return and convoy them to

Boston. Having determined this as you shall see best for the Kings Service you are jointly to proceed in quest of the Pyrates that infest the Coast as aforementioned, giving all possible assistance to known friends, and encouraging and protecting all persons who are willing or inclined to bring Supplies or Fuel to Boston, and seizing every Vessel you find offending against the restraining Acts or otherwise acting contrary to Law. And whereas I am informed the Enemy depend chiefly for Success upon Boarding, and to that end carry an extraordinary number of hands; you are to be very careful that you are not surprized. You are to inform yourself when the Brigs will be ready to Sail, and bring them with you to Boston, where you are to come in company with the *Hope* or not as the Service will admit.

Given under my Hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston* at Boston the 18 July 1775

Sam Graves

[In margin:] 3 *Sisters Ocean*

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 459-461, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

[Extract]

Preston Boston 18 July 1775

I have already informed you that in pursuance of the Lordships Orders to me to establish four armed Schooners I have established two by the names of *St. Laurence* and *Halifax*: The former of these is returned from Halifax Yard compleatly fitted and is a very fine Vessel. I have since purchased a Sloop of 96 Tons, whom I have ordered Lieut. Alexander Ellis of the *Boyne* to command, she is gone to Halifax to be fitted as a Schooner, and is established like the rest and named *Hinchinbrook*.

The Hull of a very good Vessel being nearly finished on the Stocks in this Town intended for John Hancock, I have entered into an agreement with the Builder to compleat her in all respects, except Cables, Anchors Sails and Rigging, for his Majesty, and to launch her the first of next Month. I have ordered her to be rigged as a Brig, to be commanded by Lieut. Thomas Graves (late of the *Diana*), and to be named *Bolton*. While the Carpenters are employed on the Hull, the *Bolton's* People, with assistance from the Men of War, are fitting her Rigging. Sails are making by our own People in the Sail Loft, and I hope to have her fit for Service by the latter end of next month.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 148, 149, MassHS Transcript.

NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND, TO SAMUEL WARD
AND STEPHEN HOPKINS ¹

[Extract]

Providence July the 18, 1775

... we have three men of War and one packet that are constantly aRobing and plundering allmost all the Vessels that comes in Especially those that belong to providence none Escape that they can get in their power and they have So Strong a party in their favour in the town of Newport that nothing can be said or done

in the coloney but they have immediate intelligence of it our [Governor Joseph] Wanton appears Very open in opposition to the american measures and has Cpt [James] Wallace often at his house to dine &c; there is severall of the true friends to the cuntry amoveing out of Newport I Expect the toreyes will have the Rule there Soon.

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence", *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 256.

DR. JONATHAN MALLET TO WILLIAM ALLMON ¹

Sir,

Ship *Asia*, New York, July 18, 1775.

Relying on your discretion and prudence, I have to request your assistance in an affair that I imagine will require some dexterity to manage properly. I want to have a few articles out of the medicine store put on board Captain [George] Vandeput's Ship, to be sent here, if you think it can be done so as not to be observed. You must consult with Bowden about it, who has the care of them; and I hope will meet with no difficulty in putting into the man-of-war boat at Blundell's house, at noon day, to avoid suspicion, a box of lint, the two boxes pulv. Peruvian, one do. Sal Glaub. The pot of camphire, and what opium there is packed in another small box. If you can't easily send all these articles, the box of lint, which is most wanted, may be easily carried under the arm; as also the camphire and opium. Scrape off the marks, and after it is on board, direct it for me at this place. Be cautious how you open the front part of the store. I believe you will find the key at Mrs. Reid's; as Mrs. Mallett tells me she left all the keys with her; you will leave them there again when you have got out the above articles. I hope Bowden will take all the care he can both of the medicines and bedding store, and give me immediate notice if any one offers to meddle with them; and tell them for me, that I will take care he shall be satisfied for his trouble. If the key should not be there, I must get you to write to Mrs. Mallett, or to go up, if necessary, to know where it is put. I left them all in a drawer of my desk, and I dare say you will find them at Mrs. Reid's, as I know that of the bedding store is there. I should be glad of a bale or two of old sheets, but am afraid it will be difficult to get them. Don't risk any thing, but first let me know if it is practicable to get them, and several other articles I want, out of the medicine store on some future occasion. Captain Kingston, who brings you this, has directions to find you or Bowden, and give you all the assistance he can, and will take care of whatever you give into his charge. There are some lancets, needles, scalpels, and pocket instruments, in one of my drawers also; if they could be got at, I should be glad they were sent here; but I fear Mrs. Mallett has the keys in the country. Mr. Bruce will write to you on this subject, to enjoin your transacting this business with all imaginable precaution; and be assured you will, in return, meet with every thing to serve you in the power of your assured friend,

J. Mallett

To Mr. William Allmon, at Dr. Bruce's, New-York, per favour of Captain Kingston

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1684, 1685.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Martis, 9 ho. A.M. July 18th. 1775

The Mayor of the city of New-York attending in the next room, informed some of the members, that the magistrates had applied to a carpenter to build a boat for the ship *Asia*, to replace that lately burnt belonging to the said ship *Asia*; that the Carpenter desires an order or protection from this Board for that purpose, to convince any of his fellow-citizens (who might inquire), that he is doing that work with the approbation of the committee.

Thereupon an order was made in the words following, to wit:

This Committee do hereby signify their approbation of the conduct of the civil magistrates, in ordering the building of a boat to replace that lately burnt in this city, belonging to his Majesty's ship *Asia*; and require the carpenter which they have or shall employ for that purpose, to perform the same.

Ordered, That two copies of this order be engrossed and signed by one of the secretaries, and delivered to Mr. Mayor.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 81.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, July 18, 1775

The Congress resumed the report of the Committee for putting the Militia into a proper state of defence and after debating the same by paragraphs came to the following resolutions: . . .

That it be recommended to each Colony to appoint a committee of safety, to superintend and direct all matters necessary for the security and defence of their respective colonies, in the recess of their assemblies and conventions.

That each colony, at their own expence, make such provision by armed vessels or otherwise, as their respective assemblies, conventions, or committees of safety shall judge expedient and suitable to their circumstances and situation for the protection of their harbours and navigation on their sea coasts, against all unlawful invasions, attacks, and depredations, from cutters and ships of war.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 187, 189.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 18 [1775]

Resolved, That Colo. [Daniel] Roberdeau be requested to wait on the Physicians of the Hospital, and desire they would inform this Board what Medicines and Necessarys there may be occasion for, for the 600 Men that are to be employed on Board the Boats.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, "X, 288.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775
Tuesday 18.

Moored Point Comfort N E Willoughby's E b S Newport
News: W b S in 8 fathoms –
at 3 P M Anchored here his Majesty's ship *Mercury*, and sent to

Norfolk in a schooner the remainder of Lord Dunmore's baggage with the Ordnance and do stores that were left by the *Magdalen* for his Lordships use

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Special Meeting of the Committee on Tuesday 18 July 1775

An Application was made by Mr John Fox from Virginia to supply a Parcell of Gunpowder for the use of the Inhabitants at York whom he represented to be in great distress, as expecting an attack from 5 Men of War then drawn up in line of Battle before the Town, And he produced a Letter from Robt Carter Nicholas Esqr to him desiring him to engage as far as £1000 Stg & £1000 Virg. Curr. for Gunpowder & Arms, But the small Quantity in our Magazine being very insufficient to supply our own immediate wants, the Committee were of Opinion they had it not in their Power to comply.

1. Balt. Com., LC.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Cruizer*, FRANCIS PARRY, COMMANDING ¹

July 1775

Moored off the Fort [Johnston]

Monday 18 Modt & Cloudy, had an account of people coming to destroy the Fort, under arms all night, 1/2 pt 2 the houses in the Fort were [se]t on fire, could not see any people, at 7 A M saw some stragglers never more than 2 or 3 together they came about the Fort. at 3 [P M] all the Barns, stables, cottages &c took fire & were entirely destroyed by the Rebels, who then disappeard entirely.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COUNCIL OF NORTH CAROLINA ¹

At a meeting of the Council on board His Majesty's Sloop *Cruizer* in Cape Fear River on Tuesday the 18th July 1775

Present

His Excellency the Governor The Honble James Hasell Lewis DeRosset and John Sampson Esquires

The Governor informed the Board that in consequence of the just Representations of Captain [John] Collet Governor of Fort Johnston, that the Garrison of that place was reduced to no more than three or four men that he could depend upon, and that he had received advice of a considerable body of the People of the Country being collecting in order to attack the place, he had thought it advisable for the preservation of His Majesty's Artillery to dismount the Guns in the Fort and to lay them under the protection of the guns of His Majesty's Ship of War and to withdraw the little remnant of the Garrison the shot and small Stores and to place them in security on Board a Vessel lying under the protection of the Kings Ship.²

The Council approved of the steps His Excellency had taken for the preservation of His Majesty's Artillery.

Francis Parry Esqre Commander of His Majesty's Sloop *Cruizer* representing to the Governor in Council that seamen were continually offering to enter on board the King's Ship under his Command, whom he could not take as he had his complemt of Men, and who would enlist under the Standard of Rebellion for the sake of the bounty money given, and might and probably would be employed against the King's Ship if as was reported, the People meditated an Attack upon her.

The Governor and Council taking into consideration the representation of Captain Parry were unanimously of opinion that if he found it consistant with his Majesty's Service it would be advisable to retain the men who offered themselves on Board His Majesty's Ship under His Command until they could be otherwise provided for.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 106, 107.

2. The transport *Sally*.

JOSIAH MARTIN, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO "THE PEOPLE"¹

To the People who send a letter to Governor Martin bearing date the 16th instant by Nathan Adams, a Pilot.

[Extract]

Cruizer Sloop of War

9 o'clock at night, July 18th 1775

I have received this minute a Letter signed "The People," representing many unwarantable proceedings of Capt [John] Collet, which it would have been always my Duty to enquire into, and to prevent as far as lay in my power, if I had been made acquainted with them timely. In all cases where his indiscretions have come to my knowledge, I have interposed my advice and authority, and I persuade myself not without effect, as well appears by his delivering up the Wines he has detained in his possession. There are other allegations against him in the letter I have received of most heinous nature of which I never heard a word before, of his unjustifiable seizure of the Corn, I have been informed and highly disapproved, and remonstrated against it, and shall use my utmost authority to make him restore it.

The dismounting of the King's Artillery, in Fort Johnston, has been done by my Authority, and by Virtue of the Powers vested in me by His Majesty from conviction that it was expedient for the King's Service, and it will be my Duty as you may be assured it will be my care to prevent any injury happening to them where they are laid for the present. I must therefore hope and desire that you will not under the mistaken belief of Captain Collet having dismounted the Cannon in Fort Johnston of himself proceed in your present design of removing them, as you will thereby do violence against Lawfull Authority which it will be inconsistent with my Duty to permit, and which cannot fail to draw upon you His Majesty's highest displeasure. For these reasons I do most earnestly advise, exhort and intreat you to desist from your purpose. As

Your sincere friend and well wisher

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 104.

Sir

Beaufort 18th July 1775.

about Nine o'clock this morning your favour of 16.th
& 17.th Instant were delivered to me by Mr. Adinger, and should have
Complied with the Council of Safety's order in delivering the
Letter directed to Mr. Lebonk: but he set out yesterday morning
for Charles Town with Capt. Joyner and others to ~~convey~~ ^{convey} down about
5000^{lb} Gun powder taken out of Maitlands ship, so that he will be
with you earlier than if he were here now. I took the liberty of
opening the letter directed to him, thinking that probably there
was some order to be executed, if the vessel you mention came here
& which perhaps I could have complied with, but I find that is not
the case. I return the letter hoping it will not be taken amiss of any
you may depend I shall keep this matter as it is intrusted to
me. — many Gentlemen were present at the delivery of the letter
& asked what was the Laprep, to which I Replied it was a private
one & that put an end to their Enquiry — we have sent ~~you~~
off this morning 5000^{lb} Gun powder which came here ~~to~~ yesterday
under care of Lieut. Deharty, from Savannah, he is ^{to} deliver it, a
Guard is sent with it from hence. I wish the first of this parcel
safe to Ch. Town, where I make no doubt it will meet with
a hearty Reception — I am with Respect

Sir

Your Obedt. servant
D. DeSaussure

Daniel DeSaussure to Henry Laurens, July 18, 1775.

DANIEL DESAUSSURE TO HENRY LAURENS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Beaufort 18th July 1775.

Sir about Nine oClock this morning your favour of 16th & 17th Instant were deleivered to me by Mr. Adinger, and shoud have Complied with the Council of Safetys order in deleivering the Letter directed to Mr. [Tunes] Tebout, but he set out yesterday morning for Charles Town with Capt. [John] Joyner and others to convey down about 5000 lb Gunn powder taken out of [Richard] Maitlands ship, so that he will be with you earlier than if he were here now . . . we have sent you off this morning 5000 lb Gunn powder which came here yesterday under care of Lieutt Doharty, from Savannah, he is to deleiver it, a Guard is sent with it from hence. I wish the first & this parcell safe to Chs Town, where I make no doubt it will meet with a hearty Reception –

1. Laurens Collection, No. 29, Letters of the Council of Safety, SCHS.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

In the Council of Safety [Charleston] Tuesday, July 18th, 1775.

Mr. [William Henry] Drayton and Mr [Miles] Brewton, Members of this Council, dispatched on a special Service to Georgia, being returned Mr Drayton reported: "That in Consequence of their Directions, Mr Brewton and himself proceeded to Savannah near which Place they arrived last Friday [July 14] Evening, when they sent a Letter to Mr [Archibald] Bullock, Mr Young, & Mr [Joseph] Habersham, in Savannah, acquainting them with their Arrival. That the next day they were invited to the Provincial Congress, which had continued sitting from the 4th Instant, and were received in the most respectful Manner: That they then opened the Nature of their Deputation, and made Application on the part of this Colony to purchase as large a Portion of the Gun-powder that has been taken out of Capt. [Richard] Maitland, and been detained in Georgia by Order of their Congress, as might be more than sufficient for the Use of that Colony. That in Consequence of this Application a Committee had been appointed, who reported that of 12,700 lb of Gun-powder then in the Colony only 3,000 lb ought to be delivered for the Use of Carolina. That against this Report Mr Brewton and himself remonstrated in such Terms as tended to show that Carolina had a Right to expect a larger Portion, and that in granting such, Georgia so far from doing a Favour to Carolina would only discharge the Duty she owed to America and herself; in fine, that the Congress set aside the Report, and delivered to Mr Brewton and himself, on the Part of the Colony, by way of Loan, 5000 lb of Gun-powder, which they had shipped on board a Proper Vessel under Orders to proceed to Charles-Town within Land."

Mr Tunes Tabout reported, that Capt. [John] Joiner was arrived at Wappoo, with upwards of 5000 lbs of Gun-powder from Georgia; and that he there waited for the Directions from this Council.

Ordered, That a guard of 12 or 15 Men be immediately sent to Wappo; and that Capt. Joiner be desired to wait there till he shall receive further orders.

Resolved, That Capt. Joiner's Cargo be brought to Charles-Town; that it be landed on Mr Gibbes' Wharf – and that it be there received by Lieut. Heyward

with a Detachment of the Artillery Company, and deposited in the old Magazine.

Ordered, That Mr President to write to Capt. Joiner, to come to Gibbes's Wharf accordingly.

Resolved, That 4000 lbs of said Cargo, be immediately shipt for Philadelphia.

1. Laurens Collection, Journal of the Council of Safety, June 16–July 27, 1775, SCHS.

PROCEEDINGS & SENTENCE AGAINST CHARLES WEBB ST. PAUL'S PARISH
[SOUTH CAROLINA] JULY 1775 ¹

St Pauls Parish the 18th July 1775 –

Personally appeared before Andrew Leitch Esquire one of His majesties Justice of the Peace for Charlestown District & The Committee for St Pauls Parish, Allen Miles, Robert Miles & Melcher Garner being Present –

Agreeable to a summons by us to Cause Charles Webb to Clear himself of some Malicious Expressions said against His Honour the Lieutenant Governour & the Committee's of the said Province – Messrs John Jackson, William & James Rugge & Jno Humphreys being Witnesses to what they Heard the said Charles Webb Say in Public Company – The affidavits of the Said Gentlemen are as follows –

That on monday the 8th May Last, Jno. Jackson in Company with the afore-said witnesses, went from the quarter house to Charlestown to the house of Valuntine Lynn, their in the Evening of the same day Charles Webb ask'd the Deponent to Walk with him to Francis Bremars, according he went with the said Charles & found Mr. Bremer at Mr Ramages Tavern, when on that very Day the news was brought that Hostilities had commenc'd against Boston, & the Bostonians were Success, full, & there was Mrs. Ramage & Mr Bremer Present when Charles Webb Declared he woud go to England take a Commission & come Against the Americans –

Mr. William Rugge on Oath saith That on the Precedeing 8th Day May, he heard the said Charles Declare he would Stand by what he said at Mr Ramages Tavern, then the Deponent asked him what he said; he Answer'd That he wou'd go home & get a Commission & Come Out & fight against the Americans – Shortly after That, at Mr Edwards Tavern on the Bay, the Deponent with Jno Jackson heard the said Charles Call the Lieutenant Governor ² a Damn Fool for not Hoisting the King's Standard –

Mr James Rugge on Oath saith That some time in April last that the said Charles Inform'd the Deponant, that his Father-in-Law Thomas Harcombe was then Just return'd from Charlestown, during the time he was Their, one Mrs. Pendergrass Dun'd his Father (meaning Mr. Harcombe) for an Accot Due Mr. Long Publicly in the Street, & had Threaten'd him that she woud apply to The Committee, Provided he woud not settle the Account with her, the said Charles Replied, a Pretty Joke indeed, to apply to such a Sett of Mechanical, Ignorant Rascals, & that they consisted of Butchers, Taylers & Coblers & Hop'd that his Father wou'd not obey aney Summons from Them, wch If it was his Own Case he wou'd not – sometime after, the Deponant came from Charlestown & the said Charles ask'd him whether the Delegates were Sail'd for the No. Ward.³ in Answer, he told him he Believ'd they were; he then reply'd, that he wish'd the men

of War woud meet with 'em & take them Pris'oners & carry them to England, Their to be Treated as Rebels, for he thought them more so than Ever the Scotch were, & he was not Supriz'd at the Scotch being such Loyal Subjects, for a Burnt Child wou'd Dread the Fire & how Pretty the Foolish Rascals of Property wou'd Look when their Lands & Negroes comes to be forfeited to the King that he cou'd take the whole Province, if he had a Regement of the Kings Soldiers, for he well knew that the Americans wou'd not fight. The Deponant Farther heard the Said Webb say that he Blam'd the Leieutnant Governor for his being so Inactive & that the People wou'd not been so Rebelious had it not been for his Foolish Proceedings, that he wonder'd he Did not Put up the King's Standard, that he mout be able to know who was Friends to the Government or who Not——

Mr. Jno. Humphreys on Oath, saith that In may last Their was some Gentlemen at Mr. Thomas Harcombe's Talking about the Affairs of the Country, & after those Gentlemen went away he heard Mr. Webb say he thought it was a Pit'y their was not a gallows in Charlestown to hang all the Americans in a String, & as for the Committee They were a Lousey Sett. Blackgards, such as Butchers, & Taylers – & Further Saithe Not –

Sworn the 18th July 1775 before me

And^w Leitch
John Jackson

W^m Rugge
James Rugge

St Pauls Parish the 18 July 1775

Whereas Charles Webb being brought before the Committee for saying many disrespectfull words against the Lieutenant Governor (of this Province) & the Committee in general. – it has appeared to us, by several Affidavits that the said Charles Stands Guilty of the Accusation – Wee Therefore Look on him as an Enemy to This Province & America in General And an Object of the Resentment of the Public –

by Order of the Committee

Melcher Garner Chairman

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, I, 62–65.

2. Lieutenant Governor William Bull.

3. The Delegates to the Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia.

GOVERNOR SIR JAMES WRIGHT TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

No. 54

Savannah in Georgia the 18th of July, 1775.

On the 13 instant at night two Gentlemen came here from Charles Town sent as I was informed by the Council of Safety there and they have Prevail'd on the [Provincial] Congress to let them have 5000 weight of the Gun Powder and which they carried away with them, and I am Informed that Some of the Liberty People here, Assisted in Putting on board the Vessell they came in a brass field Peice and Carriage belonging to His Majesty, this I did not hear of till Afterwards, but if I had I could not have Prevented it.

1. *Collections of the Georgia Historical Society*, III, 196–199, from PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5.

JOHN STUART, SUPERINTENDENT FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS IN THE SOUTHERN DEPARTMENT, TO SOUTH CAROLINA COMMITTEE OF INTELLIGENCE ¹

[Extract]

St. Augustine, July 18, 1775

Your letter of the 29th renders it necessary for me to tell you, that some time before I left Charlestown I had received information of a design to seize my person; and in order to give colour to such a step, a report was industriously propagated of my having sent to call down the Indians. Immediately after my removal from Charlestown to my plantation on Lady's Island, it was reported, that in consequence of my orders, thirty-four families on the frontiers had been murdered by the Cherokees. When I was at Georgia, I had information that Captain [John] Joyner and Mr. [John] Barnwell, two members of the Provincial Congress, had returned to Beaufort; where, by most defamatory reports and insinuations, they endeavoured to blacken my character, and render me obnoxious to the people; giving out that my having called down the Indians was proven before the Congress; that great quantities of arms and ammunition were shipped for me to arm the Negroes and Indians, and that it was now discovered that I had sold Fort London, and was the instrument of getting the garrison massacred; and Captain Joyner showed at the public muster-field, in St. Helena, printed bills, containing the above, and other false accusations.

From thence they went to Savannah, and in the night had a meeting with the Committee, of which Sir James Wright gave me notice early next morning, and advised me to take steps for the security of my person. I accordingly prevailed upon Captain [William] Grant, of the *St. John*, armed schooner, to land me at St. Augustine, where the business of my department called me. But before I embarked, I saw some of the members of the Committee, and read to them some part of my correspondence with my Deputies, which they communicated to you. They candidly told me that the people were much enraged; and they could not answer for the safety of my person. I then thought it high time to provide for my safety; and went on board the *St. John*, armed schooner, at Cockspur.

I have since been informed, that two boats were sent down the river in pursuit of me; and from the schooner I saw several armed canoes, said to be commanded by Captain Joyner and Mr. Barnwell, who, before they left Beaufort, gave out they were to receive and conduct me back to Charlestown. The armed schooner, however, proceeded the next day for this place, where I landed in a very weak condition; and this, gentlemen, you are pleased to call a precipitate departure, though I shall ever consider it as a most fortunate escape.

I am, Gentlemen, [&c.]

John Stuart

To William Henry Drayton, James Parsons, John Lewis Gervais, Arthur Middleton, William Tennent and Thomas Heyward, Jun., Esquires

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1681, 1682.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *Saint John*, LIEUT. WILLIAM GRANT,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 Anchord in New Providence Harbour
Tuesday 18 Arrived here a Ship from Liverpool and a Schooner from Rhode
Island – In whom Came dispatches from the Admiral on His Majesty's Service.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

19 July

PETITION OF BENJAMIN FOSTER AND JEREMIAH OBRIAN TO THE MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL COURT ¹

To the Honorable Council & House of Representatives of the Colony of the
Massachusetts Bay assembled at Watertown the 19th Day of July A D 1775.

The Petition of Benjn Foster & Jeremiah Obrian in behalf of the Inhabitants
of Machias

Humbly Sheweth. that whereas your Petitioners have been at Great Expençe
in fixing a Privateer for the Defence of the Place, and its Situation is Such that it
may be easily Blocked up by a Small Vessel and Stop all Communication, we
intreat with Submission that there may be Commissions for the officers and some
men Stationed on Board of her to be Ready on any emergency To Take the
Troops on Board, that are stationed there and when thought Proper by our
Committee otherways we Humbly Conceive that if said Privateer should engage
an armed Vessell and be Taken, (which we are Determined by Divine assistance
never to be) we Shall be Deemed & treated as Pirates we would also inform
your Honours that there is an estate belonging to Ichabod Jones formerly of
Boston in the Hands of Stephen Jones of Machias. your Petitioners humbly beg
that your Honours would Take it into Consideration and order said estate to be
Taken care off by the Committee of Safety at Machias or some Proper Person that
your Honours shall Point out and that the income of Said estate may defray Some
of the Charges that have arrisen by Reason of sd Jones being an enemy to his
Country; we would inform your Honours that in taking the first Tender, one of
the men that was Killed has Left a poor Helpless widow & Six Small Children
intirely Destitute of the Necessarys of Life; and a number of wounded men who
have Lost their whole Summer by being wounded and will Stand in great need of
some Relief if your Honours after Consideration would be Pleased to give
Directions so that the Profits of said Jones' Estate may be applyd for the benefit
of those that have mett with these misfortunes and your Petitioners as in Duty
Bound shall ever Pray

Benjⁿ Foster
Jeremiah Obrian

[Endorsed] in Council Augt 18, 1775

Read and sent down

Sam^l Adams Secry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 206, 280.

PETITION OF JEREMIAH OBRIAN AND BENJAMIN FOSTER TO THE MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL COURT ¹

To the Honorable Council & House of Representatives Assembled at Watertown,
the 19th of July A D 1775

The Petition of the Subscribers in Behalf of the Inhabitants of Machias in the
County of Lincoln and Province of Massachusetts Bay --

Humbly Sheweth, that your Petitioners in the Present unhappy Times, have
been at Great Expence in guarding the Coast at Machias, by Which means the
inhabitants have Done but Very Little else for two months Past, which Leaves us
in a Very Distressed situation: unable to Defend our selves, or the Common Cause
for Which our Country in general is Contending, however We beg leave to hold
our selves Ready and Willing to Exert our Selves Still further, by Virtue of Such
incouragement, as your Honours Shall think proper, we therefore pray your
Honours would please to allow us the previlidge of Raising a Company of men
amongst our selves on the Expence of the Province, by Which means we humbly
Conceave we should be Enabld to gaurd our own Port by Continuing the young
men in the place, which at Present is wholly out of imploy, and Contribute in
some measure to the Necessity of the poor Inhabitants [&] the Company So Raised,
to be under Such Restriction & Regulation as your Honours Shall think fit. we
would also beg Leave to Represent to your Honours, that we have not a Sufficiency
of Powder & Ball to make any Considerable Defence in Case of an Invation, we
humbly Pray your Honours would Supply us, with two Hundred weight of Powder
& Balls in Proportion.

Your Honours are Doubtless Sensible of the great Cost & Charge your Peti-
tioners must necessarily be at, in the Conveyance of a number of Prisoners from
Machias to Watertown Near three Hundred & fifty miles Distant the Particular
accmpts of Which we Beg Leave to Lay before your honorable Committee we
there force Pray Your Honours, [would Please to Grant such a sum] of money to
be Paid unto your Petitioners as will enable us to Defray all Such Charges as
Shall be found Right & Just and your Petitioners as in Duty bound Shall ever
Pray

Jeremiah Obrian
Benjⁿ Foster

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 206, 225.

EDWARD EMERSON TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

To the Honorable & Council and House of Representatives of the Colony of the
Massachusetts Bay, in General Court Assembl'd July 19, 1775.

Humbly sheweth your Petitioner, that he with the eastern Regiment in the
County of Lincoln, on hearing that a Man of War with sundry other Vessels were
come to the eastern Shore of said County, in order to supply the Regulars with
Wood and Provisions, went down in order to prevent their Design, and had the
good Fortune to take five Vessels in that Employ, which have since been disposed
of by your Honors; one of which Vessels your honors have thot fit to put into my
Care, a Schooner of about 70 Tons, well found and might easily be fitted &
rendered very suitable to defend the Sea Coast. your Petitioner would further

inform your Honors, that said Regiment, before they destroyed Fort Pownal, took into their Possession a Quantity of Cannon, Ball & Langrage, the Property of this Colony, which is now on board said Schooner. Your Petitioner therefore prays your Honors, that as the eastern Shore of this Colony is most exposed to the Damage of the Enemy, he may be allowed to fitt said Schooner for a Privateer, make use of said Ball & Langrage taken from Fort Pownall, enlist Thirty Men to serve on board said Vessel, and use & improve said Vessel for the Defence of the Sea Coasts in the eastern Part of this Colony, and your Petitioner as in Duty bound shall ever pray &c

your Petitioner further humbly prays he may [be] allowed 100lb Powder to be used on board said Vessel for the Purpose aforesaid

Edw^d Emerson

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 103.

Massachusetts Spy, WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 1775

Worcester, July 19

Last Saturday [July 15] nine prisoners, belonging to the Admiral's ship, lying in Boston harbour, who were taken at Machias, were brought to this town and committed to jail.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTYS SLOOP *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE, COMMANDING ¹

July 1775

Plymouth Light House So 2 Leagues

Wednesy 19 At 6 AM saw 20 Whale Boats under the Soern Shore with about 7 Men in each at 10 took two whale Boats Belongg to Marshfield . . . at 7 P M Came too in Cape Codd Harbr Sent aboat on Shore to get Intiligence

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE THREAT TO DESTROY THE TOWN OF NEWPORT ¹

By a Gentleman from Newport, Rhode-Island, who was there at the time the town was threatened with total ruin by the three pirates of war stationed in said harbour, we are favoured with the following particulars:

On Monday night, the 17th of July [1775], two men belonging to the *Swan*, Capt. [James] Ayscough, being on shore, saw fit to attempt an escape from their old and detested habitation, their design (by the bye) was communicated to no individual of the town. The next day, viz. the 18th, A.M. two or three of the ferry boats which pass between Newport and Connanicut were fired upon and brought too, an event so singular that two respectable members of the Committee waited upon Capt. Ayscough to know the reason, he told them that two of his men the night before were sent on shore upon some errand, and had not returned, added, that he was confident the inhabitants knew where they were, and that they were detained by them *purposely*, the two gentlemen declared themselves ignorant of the matter, and believed the whole town to be, however, to pacify Capt. Ayscough, they assured him that they would summon the Committee together, enquire into the affair, &c. withall, desiring Capt. Ayscough to write a letter to the Committee, stating his *grievance*; this he did, and they promised to wait on him

with an answer in the afternoon: As the Captain's letter was rather in the threatening stile, the Committee could not help enquiring what he meant thereby, and assured him in their reply, that they were not to be intimidated, and did not think themselves by any means, accountable for the desertion of any of his men. Captain Ayscough read the letter with considerable composure, folded it up, and then gave it to [James] Wallace, Captain of the *Rose* (Ayscough at this time being on board Wallace's ship) Captain Wallace immediately flew into a most terrible passion, threw the letter down in a violent fit of rage, damn'd the Committee, the Congress, &c. swore at Ayscough for writing to such a damn'd parcel of rebels and declared that if he knew the two gentlemen who were then present to be of the Committee, they should never go a-shore again; they endeavoured to pacify him but in vain, he swore repeatedly that if there was a God in Heaven, the town should be destroyed before morning, that he was a King's officer, and would not be insulted, &c. Hereupon the two gentlemen left the ship. A signal gun was instantly discharged, and the three pirates in the harbour and their tender immediately weighed anchor and came close in with the town, their tomkins were out, the marines on board beat up to arms, and all the hostile preparations imaginable going forward against a defenceless seaport, consisting (exclusive of the men) of not less than 6000 women and children. About half past nine in the evening a cannon was discharged from the *Rose*, when many really thought the firing on the town was begun, several women fainted away, others went into fits, and a few absolutely miscarried by the fright, in short, there was the greatest apparent distress! (The cannon which was fired was loaded with powder only.) Between the hours of ten and eleven, the same night, a packet from Providence arrived with seven or eight passengers, she was stopt and a place appointed for her near the *Swan*, the passengers were seized, made to tell all their names, and confined as prisoners, repeatedly stiled rebels, with the most horrid oaths annexed, a guard with drawn swords kept over them during the night, the late infamous proclamation of a truce breaking [Thomas] Gage, was hung close by them, which they were fearful they would be compelled to sign or else abide the consequence therein denounced. It is worthy of observation, that during the period the three Captains were together on board the *Rose*, playing cards, drinking, carousing, &c. About one or two o'clock next morning, viz. Wednesday, one of the *Swan's* men returned, and in order, it is supposed to save himself from a flogging, as it was necessary for him to give some account of himself, he invented the following lye and swore to it upon the Holy Evangelists, namely, "That the Rhode-Island rebels had taken him and his companion and wanted that they should enlist among them to fight against the King, but that they refused, and because they did that the rebels gagged them and then carried them to Providence gaol, but that he broke away and travelled thirty miles to get on board again, with much of the same stuff." The Captains of the pirates either believed this gross and inconsistent falsehood, or fain would make the inhabitants think so; accordingly it was taken down in writing, sent on shore and satisfaction demanded, or the town should certainly be laid in ashes that very day. Another cannon was now discharged, four ferry-boats and two wood sloops seized, quantities of tar and other inflammatory and combustible matter put into the same,

in order to set on fire and send into the wharves, as a more expeditious way of destroying the town than by cannon only; the cannon at the same time were to be fired on every part of the town; the Court-house, Dr. Stiles's Meeting-house, and the Printing-office were first of all to feel the effects of this horrid plot. The most terrible parade was kept up by these *low* ministerial tools till near two o'clock P.M. when two persons of undoubted veracity (farmers, within two or three miles of the town) went on board the *Swan*: One of these gentlemen assured the Captains of the three ships, that he saw the stragglers, for whose desertion such terrible confusion had ensued, in his corn field on Tuesday morning, and described them; the other gentleman declared that he saw them on Tuesday afternoon where he was making hay, and likewise described them, for they told these gentlemen how they had made their escape from the *Swan*, and were determined not to go back again. After fully proving that they knew the men, by pointing out the one who had returned, notwithstanding four others were first produced in order to deceive them, they, viz. the two gentlemen, came on shore; when, all at once, the boats and prisoners were dismissed, the ships weighed anchor and stood up the river.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, August 7, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, July 19, 1775

[*Resolved*] That the President be desired to write to the powder committee or committees of safety in this city and New York (where it is said a supply of powder is lately arrived) to forward to the Camp as much good gunpowder as they can spare.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 191.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 19 [1775]

Captain Robert White Reported that he sent a person to the Jerseys to know what number of Logs the Inhabitants would supply the Board with,² who brought with him a List of the following Gentlemen, who Generously gave the number of Logs mention'd opposite their names, vizt:

Benjamin Whitall,	55	Joseph Ward,	10
John Wood,	20	Joshua Hopper,	15
Nathan Kimsey,	10	Isaac Hopper,	10
Richard Johns,	50 or more	Levi Hopper,	15
David Paul,	20	James Wood,	10
Joseph Low,	30	Joseph Tatom,	1
James Brown,	10	Charles West,	40
	<hr/> 195		<hr/> 101
			195
			<hr/> 296 Logs

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 289.

2. For construction of chevaux de frise to be sunk in the river.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 19. [1775]

Resolved, That the Boat to be launched by Mr. John Wharton, be called the *Experiment*.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 289.

"COPY OF A LETTER TO MR [PHILIP] STEPHENS DATED AT PHILADELPHIA THE
19TH OF JULY 1775—" ¹

[Extract]

This day saw one of the floating Batteries intended for destroying such of His Majesty's Ships as may come into the River Delawar, in length they are 40 feet Keel, flatt bottomed & are to row twenty Oars double banked, to carry a Cannon of 24 pds. Shott in the Stern Sheets, these are to lye at the mouth of Creeks, many other devices the Congress and Committees have under consideration such as maning Vessels in the night & under pretence of begging protection to board & put the Officers & Crew to death . . . Several new Machines are made for sinking in the navigable parts of the River, they are pointed with Iron, which points shew three feet under water, these and many other contrivances are going forward

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, 22c, LC Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Tamer*, EDWARD THORNBROUGH,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775

In Rebellion Road So Carolina

[Wednesday] 19 A M came on board the Mail belonging to Falmouth for our Protection, they fearing the Provincials would Seize it.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

2. The mail was placed on board the *Sandwich Packet*, when she sailed for Falmouth on August 7, 1775, PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM LORD WM CAMPBELL TO THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH
DATED CHARLES TOWN 19TH JULY, 1775—" ¹

(Copy)

On the 8th Instant we had Accounts of another Engagement near Boston: I enclose the printed Paper published here, to give your Lordship an Idea of the kind of Intelligence that is circulated with unremitting Industry round this Part of the Continent: Nineteen out of Twenty firmly believe it; and I cannot express the Mischief it does If General Gage from what I have already wrote does not see the Necessity of favouring us with some Account of his proceedings, and the Admiral the propriety of having a respectable Naval Force on this Coast, it will give me real Concern, as I every day find of what detriment it is to His Majesty's Service, to be so completely abandoned as we are. Every hour I have the Mortification of hearing of Vessels from the Dutch and French Settlements arriving, and smuggling their Cargoes in the neighbouring Creeks; and three Schooners that were loaded with Rice a few days before my Arrival, and sent to Hispaniola for the professed purpose of bringing back Military Stores, are every moment expected.



British ship-rigged sloop-of-war, c. 1760.

The intollerable Tyranny and Oppression used by the Committees in enforcing their Mandates, has already given Offence to the moderate of their own Party; and has stirred up such a Spirit in the back Parts of this Country, which is very populous, that I hope it will be attended with the best Effects . . .

The Committee and Council of Safety sit Night and Day. I am told they are debating about seizing the Kings Officers, and those few who have not signed the Association, and boldly changing the Government at once. I have just received an anonymous Letter assuring me they have determined to destroy the Light House, and cut down the land Mark Trees, that direct the Pilots in passing the Bar of this Harbour. But that will answer little End in preventing Men of War, as they can sound and lay Buoys along the Channel; and besides Mr. [John] Tollemache carried off in the *Scorpion* to Boston, a black Fellow who is by far the best Pilot in this Harbour, and has Marks of his own by which he will carry in any Vessel in spite of what they can do. Your Lordship will easily conceive the Distress of my present Situation, and how very uncertain my personl safety is, but as I know my Presence embarrasses them, I am determined at all Events to remain to the last Extremity, and see what they dare do. To publish Proclamations against their Proceedings, would be only giving them an opportunity of pouring fresh Insults on Government; but could I only keep my Ground, till General Gage enables me to publish an Account of a Severe Correction given to the Massachusetts People, and till the Admiral recollects the Situation we must be in to the Southward, and sends us some little Force, I am still in Hopes our Heroes here might come to their Senses.

[Endorsed] Boston 6th. Jany 1776

a true Copy

Robert Mackenzie Secrety

1. Clinton Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In Council of Safety [Charleston] Wednesday 19th July, 1775

Mr. [Thomas] Heyward [Jr.] reported, That Capt. [John] Joiner had this Morning delivered to him,

122 Quarter Casks	} of Gunpowder containing 5212 lb.
127 1/8 Casks	

6 Kegs Lead.

Powder Taken out of [Richard] Maitland ²

Ordered, That Mr Joseph Verrie do proceed immediately, in a Canow, with a [sufficient] Guard, in order to meet Lieut. James Dogherty in a Brigantine coming from Savannah having fifty Hundred Weight of Gun powder on board.

That he order Lieutenant Dogherty or the commanding officer to take the Recruits under his Care and upon the Return of the Boat to Charles Town to hire a pro[per] Canow immediately for that Purpose, [which may] be most practicable and convenient.

That every Precaution be used in order to prevent Loss or Damage to the Gunpowder by Fire or otherwise.

That the Boat now having the Gunpowder on board proceed without Delay to Tucker's Creek, Tucker's Island in, North Edisto River, under the Guard which Mr Verrie takes with him.

At Tucker's Island the Powder is to be immediately put on board the Scooner *Polly*, Joseph Gamball Master, That Bills of Lading be taken for the same, to be inclosed with the Letter directed to the South Carolina Delegates at Philadelphia, which Letter is to be delivered to Capt. Gamball – And Mr Verrie with the Guard and Assistants immediately do return to Charles Town, and report to the Council of Safety.

Ordered, That Lieut. Dogherty now having Charges of a Boat bound from Savannah to Charles Town, laden with Gunpowder and other Goods for the Service of the Colony of So. Carolina, or the commanding Officer of the said Boat to land the Recruits on board at some convenient Place and deliver up the Boat without delay with her Lading to Mr. Joseph Verree.

Ordered, That the President do write a Letter to the Delegates at Philadelphia, to accompany the Gunpowder to be sent to them; And the following was accordingly written.

Chas Town So. Carolina
In the Council of Safety 19th July 1775

Gentlemen The Comme. of Secrecy having communicated to us, your letter to them, by the Philada. Pilot Boat, touching a Supply of Gunpowder: We have with all possible Secrecy laden on board the Pilot Boat one hundred half Barrels containing 5000 lb of Gunpowder, which we hope you will receive agreeable to your wishes.

By order of the Council of Safety

H. L. Presidt

Mr. Jos Verree who has the Special Charge of Shipping the Powder will take his Master's Receipt or Bill of Lading and inclose it.

The Delegates from the Colony of South Carolina in Congress at Phila.

1. Laurens Collection, SCHS.

2. Master of the ship *Phillippa*, which Georgians had despoiled of a cargo of powder.

20 July

REV. JOHN MURRAY TO JAMES OTIS, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY ¹

Sir,

Boothbay July 20th 1775

I took the liberty, by last Post, of acquainting the late Honble. Congriss, of some things that appeared indispensible to the keeping possession of the greatest part of the County of Lincoln

Since that time, an express from the Committee of Campden bro't me the disagreeable news, that the extreme indigence of the inhabitants of that settlement had induced many of them for sake of obtaining provisions to trade off their lumber to the Emissaries of Genl [Thomas] Gage; & that the Committee was not able to remove this evil; praying advice; I opened the modes prescribed for relief in such a case; & recommended them to some neighbouring Towns:

Application was made a few days after. by the Comee of a town near me for some directions for their proceedings with a certain trader from Nantuckett to whom another Committee had given a permit to load for that Island; the sight of the 1st *Resolve* (which was all I then had) greatly surprized them: Major Andrew Reed of this town immediately mustered a party, went to Edgcomb's, seized the vessel, & brought it into this harbour where the Committee ordered her to be unloaded – took bonds of the Capt that he would return to Nantuckett empty – & so dismissed her; this conduct of theirs has been much censured – inas-much as the Committee in Kennebec River allowed five sloops, from the same Island, in the same week, to load & go off unmolested – they therefore pray the judgment & further orders of your Honble Court:

On this Occasion I beg leave to remark that, when any Comees are found faulty – they commonly plead that they had never seen nor known of the Resolves in point: to remove this excuse I would humbly Query whether it would not be necessary to publish every order &c that requires their execution, *in hand bills*; & take order for having them, with speed & certainty conveyed to these distant parts? & 2. whether it would not be proper to continue the post-ridings at least as far as St. Georges, or direct each town speedily to convey the bills to the next on some proper penalty?

This afternoon the Minister & five of the inhabitants of Deer Island arrived at my house, express with the alarming news that a Man of War of twenty guns four large transports & three sloops have landed a number of Marines on Long island near Fort Pownal where they now are encamped, for the protection of the vessels &c while they are to bring in a load of wood (of which 'tis said Capt Pendleton had 1000 cord ready for them, on his landing-place) also a quantity of fresh meat, for which they offer a pistareen pr pound – envoys are sent thro' the Country with written demands of provisions promising good pay for all they receive & threatening to take by force what they can't obtain by wile: after they have finished this business, 'tis expected they will se[nd] to nestle at Fort Pownal: where the people in general imagine they are permitted by Col. [Thomas] Goldthwait- Major [Nathan] Jones of Goldsborough and thirty of the inhabitants at Majabigwaduse; who, since the battle at Charlestown, have avowed a resolution of supplying the enemy: what pity is it that fortress is yet standing! warning, early enough, was given to Congress about it.

The enemy it seems bring their wives-childrin, & all the necessaries for quarters, along with them: The people in these parts are in great anxiety & distress; but all in motion; tho' almost quite destitute of powder-money-provisions & every thing the Express desires some help both in men & all the articles above: I immediately dispatched Messengers to the Colonels of the two Regiments of Militia in this County, and believe they will march large detachments of both, tomorrow: but we shall now begin to feel the mischiefs that must accrue to the Country from the draughting our best men & best arms to the Camp – the Sorry remains are in ill condition to meet an enemy – and what with 150 men to defend this extensive shore. I think the Country must be evacuated, unless more companies be stationed on the Sea Coast. & unless the wisdom of the Honble. [Congress] devise

some means of supplying the inhabitants, as well as the Companies to be stationed in this County both with ammunition & the necessaries of life.

The extreme hurry of my Situation, I hope will be my apology for the Confusion of this letter; as I hardly know what is said, & what left unsaid and have time neither to revise nor correct – I tho't it best to send the Express forward to wait on the Honble Court; as I could better acquaint you of the particulars of our alarming situation than a letter would admit – if it is not made the source of some early exertion of Government, I fear the people will be discouraged, & before the temptation now laid in their way – & if so, that the enemy will obtain lodgment from which it will be no easy matter to expell them. I have the honour [&c.]

John Murray

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 93, 94.

JAMES WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Watertown July 20, 1775

The attempt on long Island, the taking off all the stock & afterwards returning to Burn the Buildings (which you will have in the Papers) was certainly a Bold, Intrepid Manoeuvre & as such astonished our Enemies. the Barges full of Armed Men were afraid to Attack our Whaleboats. at a proper distance & the Armed Vessels, either agitated with Fear or destitute of Judgment did it without Execution. . . . I am Just Told that our Boats have this day been to the Light-House & Burnt it in spite of the Fireing from a Man of War & a number of Boats. I hear it was Executed by 300 Rhode Islanders. I dont learn that they suffered any loss . . . it is said they are more afraid of our Whale Boats than we are of their Men of War. A few armed Vessels I am abundantly convinced would produce great Consequences . . . Capt [John] Darby who we sent with the acct of the Battle of the 19th of April returned two days ago He was there 8 days & came away before [Thomas] Gages Packet arrived. He says Trade & the stocks were amazingly affected in that short time. Ld. Dartmouth sent three times for him. he refused to go, & when he threatened him he decamped got on Board and came without either Entering or clearing. I shall Enclose you a Letter Brot by him from Sherriff [William] Lee & one of the latest papers. by the Letter I fancy Genl Gage is to Expect no other reinforcement this fall. . . .

1. Adams Family Papers, MassHS.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

Camp at Cambridge, July 20, 1775

In these 8 days past there have been no Movements in either Camp of any consequence: On our side we have continued the Works without any Intermission, and they are now so far advanced as to leave us little to apprehend on that Score. On the side of the Enemy, they have also been very industrious in finishing their Lines both on Bunker's Hill and Roxbury Neck. In this interval also their Transports have arrived from New York and they have been employed in landing and Stationing their Men. . . .

I have not been able from any Intelligence I have received, to form any certain Judgment of the future Operations of the Enemy. Some Times I have suspected an Intention of detaching part of their Army to some part of the Coast, as they have been building a number of Flat Bottomed Boats capable of holding 200 Men each. But from their Works and the Language held at Boston there is reason to think they expect an attack from us and are principally engaged in preparing against it. I have ordered all the Whale Boats for many miles along the Coast to be collected and some of them are employed every Night to watch the motion of the Enemy by water, in order to guard as much as possible against any surprize.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 346–352.

BENJAMIN HALLOWELL TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston July 20th. 1775.

Sir In the last letter which I wrote you respecting my property on Gallop's island, I acquainted you that I should send the Men which I had Named to cut the grass & make the hay there – they accordingly did go down the harbor for that purpose & I am sorry to say, Notwithstanding I found myself obliged to comply with terms in a Manner extorted from me by you the Men were stopped by the Commanding officer of his Majesty's Ship *Boyne* in Consequence, as it is said, of your Possitive orders.

Are we not sufficiently oppressed by the enemies without, but must suffer by those who are sent for our protection? – as an officer of the crown therefore I demand by what right you thus Continue to deprive me of my Property?

I am etc.

Benj Hallowell

1. Clinton Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Lively*, CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775

Moored in Nantasket Road

Thursday 20 at 8 A M discovered a Number of Whale Boats Crossing from Nantasket to the Light House, they Landed & set fire to the House we made a Signal for Assistance – came onboard 5 Boats from the *Preston Boyne* & *Somerset* got a Spring upon the Cable Empd getting 2 Guns from the *Hope* into the *Sophia* Tender – Came onboard the Admirals Longbt & *Somersets* Launch at ½ past 3 P M the Boats put off from the Ship with Lieut Gibons at 7 Do the Boats return'd.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP, R.N., TO CAPTAIN BRODERICK HARTWELL, R.N. ¹

(Copy)

Lively Nantasket Road 9. O'Clock P M 20th July 1775.

Dear Sir I am just favor'd with your Letter of this Evening which acquaints me, with the Admiral's Directions, to send my Master to make Remarks what the Rebels are doing on Point Alderton, and if throwing up Works, or erecting a

Battery there to annoy Ships passing in and out the Light House Channel, all which You will please to acquaint the Admiral shall be done tomorrow if possible – I this Morning sent a Midshipman, to desire You would send to acquaint the Admiral that the Rebels had set fire to the Light House, and that a large Party of them was collected at Nantasket, which hope the Admiral has been made acquainted therewith, as the Light is quite rendered useless, and I believe I may with truth say that there are no Works as yet thrown up at Point Alderton or near it, my Ship's Company have been under Arms all day and had it not been calm all the first part of the day, think we should have destroyed a few of the Whale Boats, the Rebels this Morning took two Schooner Boats, one of which with the assistance of Oxen they drew over the Neck, and would have done so by the other, had we not prevented it, which obliged them to set her on fire, or we should have retaken her. I have sent the Admiral Word of this by one of his Midshipmen, which hope he will take care to inform him thereof, but if You send a Boat up in the Morning, beg You'll let him know it, as I had not time to write, it being late and the Boats were obliged to go for the Sheep on Lovel's Island. I am, [&c.]

Tho^s Bishop.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

STATEMENT OF SIMEON TURNER, MASTER OF THE SLOOP *Race Horse* ¹

Simeon Turner Master of the Sloop *Race Horse* in the wood and Lumber trade, saild from Salem in April last for Kennebeck River; soon after his arrival he heard of the attack made on the Kings Troops at Lexington which threw the people into great Consternation, soon after it was reported that the Kings Ships for the future would Impress all Seamen wherever they were met with. on this report All his men left him which detain'd him at Kennebeck more than two months. at last he procured two that were not seamen to assist him to Navigate his Vessel, he saild from Kennebeck River the 11th Instant, and arriv'd off Salem Harbour the 15th where a Man of Wars boat came on board and order'd him to go to Boston under the care of Captn [George] Dawson ² with another Vessel. they arriv'd off the Graves two Leagues below the Light House the same evening. about 8 OClock Captn Dawson fir'd a swivel Gun & repeated it twice, but as he had no signal given him, he did not know the meaning; upon his firing the third Gun his boat came onboard, and told him the First Gun was for a signal to come too and the others was for him to obey the signal, on which he came too under Captn Dawsons Stern for that Evening, the next morning after they had pass'd the Light House Captain Dawson put a man on bor'd him the morning following he waited on Admiral [Samuel] Graves to know his pleasure; assoon as he began to speak the Admiral said God Dam you you was going to supply the Rebels at Salem with wood, he told him he did not choose to have any thing to do with Rebels, but chose rather to come to Boston than any where else if he could be permitted, but that he knew he was liable to be seiz'd if he came before he had a pass from the preventing Officer at Marblehead, that now he was at Boston if he could be suffer'd to dispose of his wood & return to Kennebeck river, to acquaint the Inhabitants that they may come to Boston without stoping at

Marblehead and be free from an Impress he was very sure that many Vessels would Immediately come & supply the Army and Navy as well as the Inhabitants with Wood and Lumber. the Admiral Answer'd him, God Dam you I will make a prize of you —³

Simeon Turner

Boston July 20th 1775

1. Gage Papers, CL.
2. Lieutenant George Dawson of H.M. Schooner *Hope*.
3. The *Race Horse* was condemned as a prize of the *Merlin* and *Hope*, according to Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

“TO ALL SEAFARING PEOPLE”¹

This is to give notice, that the light house on Thatcher's island (commonly called Cape Ann Lights) and the light house at the entrance of Boston harbour, are burnt and destroyed by the rebels.

And further notice is given, that all seafaring people be careful that they are not deceived by false lights, which the rebels threaten to hang out, in order to decoy vessels into destruction.

By command of the Admiral

G. Gefferina

Preston, at Boston, July 20, 1775

1. Almon, ed., *Remembrancer*, 242.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTYS SLOOP *Nautilus*, JOHN COLLINS, COMMANDING¹

[in Delaware Bay]

July 1775 A M at 2 saw the Lighthouse on Cape Henlopen, W B S, at 5
Thursday 20 a Pilot came on board. — Fresh Breezes and Cloudy Wr—P M
at ½ past 4 Anchored in Delaware Bay with the Small Bower in
7 Fathoms and veered to ½ a Cable, Egg Island N N E, 3
Leagues;²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/629.
2. Arrival of the *Nautilus* was not noted in Philadelphia until July 25, when she was reported in the river off Chester, *Pennsylvania Evening Post*.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, July 20, 1775

An Express arriving with dispatches from Genl [Philip] Schuyler, the same were read.

A letter was likewise received from the Convention of Georgia, and read, setting forth, that that Colony had acceded to the general Association, and appointed delegates to attend this Congress.

Adjourned till one o'Clock, P.M.

P.M. met according to adjournment.

The dispatches from General Schuyler being taken into consideration,

Resolved, That Genl P. Schuyler be empowered to dispose of and employ all the troops in the New York department in such manner as he may think best

for the protection and defence of these colonies, the tribes of Indians in friendship and amity with us, and most effectually to promote the general Interest, still pursuing, if in his power, the former orders from this Congress, and subject to the future orders of the commander in chief.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 192–194.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, JULY 20 [1775]”¹

This Morning came up to town James Habersham, Esq; Lieut. Governor of Georgia. – He came in a Vessel bound to the northward, and got into a Pilot Boat at our Capes. – He is come for his Health. By him there are Letters which inform, that the People of Georgia are become quite hearty in the common cause, and have chosen five Delegates, which are expected in a few Days. – Capt. [Richard] Maitland, from London, arrived there, and had on board Thirteen Thousand Weight of Powder; the Inhabitants boarded her, and took all the Powder into their Possession.

1. *Connecticut Gazette*, July 28, 1775.

Maryland Gazette, THURSDAY, JULY 20, 1775

Annapolis July 20.

The ship *Totness*, captain Harding, belonging to Mr. Gildard of Liverpool, having on board a cargo of salt and dry goods, in coming up the Bay ran aground near the three islands at the mouth of West river; upon this the committee immediately met, and after consideration, determined she should proceed on to Baltimore, her intended port, but before she could get off, highly resenting so daring an infringement of the continental association, a number of people met, went on board, and set her on fire.

CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU, R.N., TO CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE, R.N.¹

Sir

Fowey, Hampton road, July 20, 1775.

Joseph Harris, the bearer of this letter, has applied to me for protection, as the people of Hampton, and some other places, have threatened his destruction, as they have found him to have given intelligence concerning a smuggling schooner which was seized in Cherrystone creek. – As the *Fowey* will soon leave the province, I think him too useful to his majesty's service to take away, he being well acquainted with many creeks on the Eastern Shore, at York, James river, and Nansemond, and many others, and of course a very useful person, especially in tenders, as he is not acquainted with the duties of a seaman, but accustomed to pilot, as he had a boat for that use, which is now detained by violence in Hampton harbour. He has always appeared very sober and prudent, is a freeman, and I could wish strongly to recommend him to such indulgence as his endeavours may merit. Agreeable to my lord Dunmore's application, I have sent up the *Arundel*, and mr. Atkinson her officer, and will send mr. Ruth in the

Liberty. I have taken such stores, and hawser, out of the *Arundel*, as belonged to the crown, when with me employed on his majesty's service, and have fitted her with her real private property.

I am, dear sir, [&c.]

George Montague

1. Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, September 15, 1775. The letter was found on board a sloop tender, cast ashore in Back River, Virginia, September 2, 1775.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Cruizer*, FRANCIS PARRY, COMMANDING ¹

July 1775

Moord off the Fort [Johnston]

Wedy 20th

Modr & Cloudy sent a party & brot some trucks from the Woods That the Rebbels had remov'd, put them on bd the *sally* transport when she weighd, & sail'd for Boston with the Garrison & Stores of Fort Johnston, except the Guns & Carriages:

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

JOSIAH MARTIN, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

Cruizer Sloop of War in Cape Fear River, No. Carolina, July 20th, 1775.

My Lord,

I have embrassed the moment only that the immediate departure of a Vessel affords me to acquaint your Lordship that I received about 9 o'clock at night on the 18th inst. a letter signed "The People," by the hands of a Pilot who confessed he received it from Mr John Ashe, a copy of which letter and of my answer thereto I have the honor herewith to lay before your Lordship. At between 2 and 3 o'clock the next morning an officer of the *Cruizer* came down to the Cabin where I was to inform Captain [Francis] Parry that Captain [John] Collet's house in Fort Johnston was on fire. The necessary preparations were immediately made for the Security of His Majesty's Ship and covering the Artillery on shore in case the People should attempt to possess themselves of it, during which no creature was to be seen and all the buildings in the Fort, which being of wood burnt like tinders, were entirely consumed. Early in the morning of yesterday a body of Men with three stands of colours were seen in motion on a point of land about 2 miles above the Ship, which soon afterwards entered the Woods and disappeared, until between 7 and 8 o'clock when we discovered a large party at some distance, and some lesser parties about the Fort which a few of the People soon afterwards entered and with a degree of wanton malice not to be described set fire to everything that had escaped the flames the preceding night, which indeed was nothing but a Centry Box, and some of the Parapets of wood work that Captain Collet had newly raised upon the defences of the place. These proceedings however to the last degree violent, extravagant and provoking, I did not think My Lord of consequence sufficient to justify me in commencing hostilities against the People so long as they forebore to touch the King's Artil-

lery, as I had no men to land I could do it with so little effect, and as all the material damage that the Fort could sustain had been effected in the night by persons yet undiscovered. Some of the Trucks of the Gun carriages, which owing to Captain Collet's oversight, were not embarked as I directed with the shot and other small Stores, the rabble removed four or five hundred yards from where they lay and left them. These I hope to recover today and get them on Board Ship.

After sauntering about the Fort and its neighborhood till between 2 and 3 o'clock in the afternoon, this rabble which amounted as nearly as I can learn to about 300 men, with a savage and barbarian wantonness, disgracefull to humanity, set fire to a large barn, stable and coach house, and a new small dwelling house together with several outhouses that Captain Collet had built for his own convenience on the King's Land belonging to the Fort, without the works, and immediately after completing this desolation retired by the route they came.

The pretence for these shamefull and extravagant outrages is annamosity to Captain Collet, whose zeal for the King's Service, and natural vehemence and impetuosity of temper, I fear have transported him to some great indiscretions, but I am confident to no violences that can justify such barbarian vengeance.

Mr John Ashe and Mr Cornelius Harnett were ringleaders of this savage and audacious Mob, concerning which my present information enables me to add nothing further.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 108, 109.

21 July

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N., TO JOHN WENTWORTH, GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE ¹

Captain Barkley will suffer the open boats of the Town of Portsmouth & the Country to go a Fishing for fresh fish only first having a permit from him, for that purpose, provided the Town of Portsmouth will let His Majesty's Ship under his Command be supplied with Fresh Beef as usual; at the common market price & our boats to pass & repass without molestation
Scarborough July 21st 1775.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, XVIII, 672.

JOHN WENTWORTH, GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO THEODORE ATKINSON,
SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ¹

Sir, Fort William and Mary July 21st 1775

Captain Barkley (at noon) gave me the inclosed paper, which I hope may effect a continuance of the boat fishery. You are sensible that I have not any powers to alter or direct in this matter, the execution of the Restraining Act, being committed to the Navy & Cusom house. I am &c.

J Wentworth

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, XVIII, 672.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL
CONGRESS ¹

[Extract] Cambridge Camp, 5 o'Clock p.m., July 21, 1775

Sir Since closing the Letters which accompany this I have received an Account of the Destruction of the Light House, a Copy of which I have the Honor to inclose ² and of again assuring you that I am [&c.]

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 353, 354.

2. Brigadier General William Heath to George Washington, July 21, 1775, Washington Papers, LC.

New England Chronicle, FRIDAY, JULY 21, 1775

Cambridge, July 21 [1775].

Capt. John Darby, who sailed from Salem for London a few days after the Battle of Lexington, returned last Tuesday [July 18], and the same day came to Head-Quarters in this place. Very little Intelligence has yet transpired we only learn, that the News of the Commencement of the American War has threw the people in England, especially the city of London, into great Consternation, and occasioned a considerable Fall in the Stocks. That the Ministry (knowing nothing of the Battle till they saw it published in the London papers) advertised in the Gazette, that they had received no Account of any action, and *pretended* to believe that there had been none: that the Parliament was prorogued two Days before Capt. Darby arrived, but it was said would be immediately called together again: that, when he left London, which was about the 1st of June, no account of Hostilities had been received by the Ministry from General Gage, notwithstanding the Vessel he despatched sailed four Days before Capt. Darby.

MEMOIRS OF MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH ¹

[Roxbury] 21st [July, 1775]

Major [Joseph] Vose returned from Nantasket. The detachment under his command brought off 1000 bushels of barley, all the hay, &c. – went to Light-House Island; took away the lamps, oil, some gun-powder, the boats, &c. and burnt the wooden parts of the light-house. An armed schooner and several boats with men, engaged the detachment; of the Americans two were wounded.

1. Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 18.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir Boston July 21, 1775

Although it has been frequently reported to Me that there is No appearance of any Work begun by the Rebels on Point Alderton, Upon the receipt of Your Excellency's Letter yesterday inclosing [Captain John] Montessor's Note I directed Captain [Broderick] Hartwell to write to Captain [Thomas] Bishop to examine the Point very narrowly – I have the honor to inclose a Copy of Captain Bishops Answer and will Communicate his Report as soon as I receive it. Mus-

quets only were fired yesterday at our Boats, it is very probable they would have fired Cannon if any had been on the Point.

I shall be obliged to your Excellency for a perusal of the Declaration of the Twelve united Colonies, and of another very late publication of theirs (the Title I have forgot) which I am informed are only in Your Excellency's possession – I am Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

1. Gage Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Lively*, CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 Moored in Nantasket Road

Friday 21 came on board One of the Admirals Boats with Carpenters to repair the Light House

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK ¹

Committee Chamber, Huntington, July 21, 1775

Mr. [John Sloss] Hobart laid before the Committee a Letter from the Committee of Safety for the Colony of New-York in the recess of the Provincial Congress, dated New York, July 14, 1775, directed to him, containing information that George Youngs and his son, John Brush, and one [Cornelius] Conkling, were concerned in Provisions in such manner as they must inevitably serve to supply General [Thomas] Gage's Fleet and Army at Boston; and inclosing notes taken from two witnesses on that subject, which were read. Messrs. Youngs, Brush and Conkling being present, acknowledged that they had sent two Sloops loaded with Provisions to the eastward, but it was in consequence of an agreement with the inhabitants of Portsmouth, in New-Hampshire; that upon their arrival in the harbour of Portsmouth, they were taken by two English men-of-war; and though Governor [John] Wentworth and the Committee of the Town claimed the Provision as theirs by contract, they were sent, very much against their inclination, to Boston, where they were obliged to sell their Provisions under great disadvantages, and at a great loss; since which they have discontinued their trade to the eastward, nor have they at present any thoughts of resuming it.² In confirmation of all which, they produced Timothy Titus, who was mate of one of the sloops, who deposed as follows, viz:

Timothy Titus deposeth: that he was mate of the Sloop *Elizabeth*, whereof Cornelius Conkling was master, for the two voyages she lately made to Portsmouth, in New-Hampshire; that about the latter end of April last, being at Portsmouth aforesaid, when John Conkling, in a sloop loaded by John Brush of Huntington, was there, he was knowing to a contract made by the said Cornelius Conkling and John Conkling, with the Inhabitants of Portsmouth, to deliver two cargoes of Provisions there, with all convenient speed, provided they could clear out from New-York; that on the 18th of May following, said two sloops sailed from the east end of Long-Island, and on the 21st they arrived within a few hours of each other in Portsmouth harbour, where they were taken by the *Canceaux* and *Scar-*

borough men-of-war; and notwithstanding the application of Governour Wentworth and the Committee of Portsmouth, they were sent to Boston under convoy of the *Sphynx* sloop-of-war, where they were obliged to sell their cargoes at the price the agents were pleased to give; after which they were permitted to come away. And this deponent further saith, he has never heard any persons concerned in the aforesaid voyage propose to send their sloops upon another voyage to the eastward.

Timothy Titus

Sworn the 21st July, 1775 Before me, John Sloss Hobart, Justice of the Peace.

The Committee taking the premises into consideration, came to the following Resolution, viz:

Resolved unanimously, That the said Youngs and his son, Brush and Conkling in this matter have not contravened the Association, nor in any wise disobeyed the recommendations of the Continental or Provincial Congresses.

Whereas, it appears that great uneasiness prevails in the minds of many people upon this subject, arising from a laudable zeal to prevent any Provisions being sent to the instruments of tyranny and oppression at Boston,

Ordered, That the parties concerned be allowed a copy of the Minutes for publication.

Thomas Wickes, Chairman

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1699, 1700.

2. See Portsmouth Committee's letter of May 29, 1775, to the Newbury Committee of Correspondence.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Veneris, 9 ho., A.M., July 21st, 1775.

A draft of a letter to the committee at Brunswick, in New Jersey, was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit.

Committee of Safety for the Colony of New York, During the recess of the Provincial Congress, New York, July 21st, 1775.

Gentlemen: We have had intelligence that boats have sundry times loaded flour at or about your city, and have run down to the west bank, and there met boats to take it from them for the use of the men of war and the army at Boston.

As this is contrary to the resolution of the Continental Congress, it is a matter that requires your strictest inspection to prevent such traders from pursuing a business inimical to the cause of liberty in the United Colonies. We have been informed that Mr. Merrill, opposite to or near Brunswick, can give you farther information on this subject.

We are respectfully, gentlemen, [&c.]

Per order of the Committee.

To the Committee at New-Brunswick

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the President, and transmitted.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 85.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 21 [1775]

Resolved, That this Committee furnish the Inhabitants of Gloucester County with Two Team[s] to assist them in bringing logs down to the different Landing places for the use of this Committee, and that Mr. Samuel Morris be desired to procure and send them over immediately.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 289.

DAVID STEWART TO THE COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE COUNTY ¹

Gentlemen.

Baltimore July 21. 1775

In the month of December last you were kind enough to permit my landing a quantity of mdze from on board the Snow *Potomac* which mdze still remains in store under your direction, and I would beg leave to remark that I do not deem it safe in its present situation, as it is exposed to the mercy of any King's cruiser that may be ordered this way – Yesterday's post brought me a letter from one of the proprietor's requesting I would with your permission remove a part of it to the head of Elk, there to be stored till the times were more favorable for the disposal thereof – I request your indulgence in this matter, under such restrictions as you may deem reasonable and also, that you will be pleased to allow me to distribute [the] remainder in such parts of the town as you may deem most eligible for its safety; the sooner you take this matter into consideration the better, for every day increases the danger its subject to –

I am very respectfully Gentn [&c.]

David Stewart

1. U.S. Naval Papers, MdHS. Edited version in Robert Purviance, *A Narrative of Events, which Occurred in Baltimore Town During the Revolutionary War* (Baltimore, 1849), 180, 181. Hereafter cited as Purviance, *Baltimore Town Narrative*.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Special Meeting of the Committee 21 July 1775

Mr David Stewart applied for Liberty to remove part of the Tea lodged with the Committee in December last from onboard the Snow *Potowmack* alledging as a Reason therefor that it was not Safe from Cruizers, which was granted And the two Gentn of the Committee who have it now in Possession are directed to deliver it, taking an Accot of the Packages with a Receipt for the same. And Mr Stewart stands accountable for delivering a Certificate from the Committee of such district as it may be lodged with for Security.

A Letter^e from Mr. Geo. Dent Chairman of the Comittee at Potowmack relative to the due Importation of some Parcells of Goods sent there by Mr. Johnson Gildart was directed to be ansd by the Chairman.²

1. *Balt. Com.*, LC.

2. See letter of Samuel Purviance of July 22, 1775.



Sold by J. WILLIAMS, No. 39, *Fleet-Street*,
Price Six-pence,

The SCOTCH BUTCHERY

A WELL EXECUTED PRINT.

BOSTON 1775.

1. E—E, } Superintendants over the Butchery, from
2. M———D, } the Two great-Slaughter Houses.
3. Col. FR—R, } Deputies to the above.
4. W—D———N, S. G. }
5. *Scotch Butchers with Plaid Caps and Jackets.*
6. English Soldiers struck with Horrour, and dropping
their Arms.
7. The English Fleet with *Scotch Commanders.*
8. Boston.

THOMAS MADDUX, JR. TO SAMUEL CHASE, PHILADELPHIA ¹

[Extract]

[Anne Arundel County, Maryland] July 21, 1775

I suppose you have not yet heard of a late Instance of the independent Spirit and Resolution, which has always characterized the People of this County, or at least but an imperfect Account –

On the Beginning of last Week, a ship belonging to Mr Gildred of Liverpool, was grounded near West River; – upon Examination it was found she contained upwards of 4000 Bushels of Salt and considerable Quantity of Cheese & dry goods; – The Committee, as you will find by the Enclosed, determined she should go [to] Baltimore; but the ever to be revered and glorious People, in whom virtue can always [torn]

to their Liberties, by an immediate Conflagration. Accordingly a neighbouring Company headed by their Capt., and a number of others went on board and set fire to both Ship & Cargo, which in a few Hours were consumed. Every thing, I am informed, was destroyed, except some Cheese belonging to the Commander, he having about 50 in number, 20 of which they permitted to savg. The Ship had not long been burning, before the *magnanimous Baltimoreans* arrived with a professed Design to execute the glorious Deed, in which they had been anticipated. They brought the owner's Son with them from Baltimore, that he might share a Stewarts Fate.²

I have been told the Capt. declares that he remonstrated to the owners in England, and predicted the fatal Event, but was answered by Him, that 10,000 men were destined for America, and would settle the Difference before her Arrival. – The poor Fellow was mistaken. – This has been the Conduct of the Marylanders, who I hope will adorn the Annals of Fame.

1. Adams Family Papers, MassHS. See also *Maryland Gazette*, July 20, 1775.

2. The reference is to the Annapolis Tea Party, October 1774.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 Cape Henry S W 2 Miles

Friday 21. at 4 A M Weighed and made sail at 10 discharged the Pilot.
Light Airs and fair
at 4 P M came to with the best bower in 5½ fm
at ½ past 6 weighed and made sail

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, JULY 21, 1775

Williamsburg, July 21.

York river is now clear of men of war, and the *Mercury* and *Otter* are gone to Norfolk, on board of which last ship is Lord Dunmore. His Lordship has taken possession, we hear, of a stout vessel lately arrived from the West-Indies,

belonging or consigned to Mr. John Brown, of Norfolk, which he intends fitting up (with cannon &c.) for his reception.

COMMITTEE OF NORFOLK TO PEYTON RANDOLPH, PRESIDENT OF THE VIRGINIA
CONVENTION ¹

Sir,

Norfolk July 21, 1775

By order of the Committee for this Borough, I am directed to inform the Convention of the arrival of troops this day in this harbor in the sloop lately belonging to Mr. Bowdain. They are said to be from St Augustine, and are about sixty in number, under the command of one Captain and two Lieutenants: the Ensign, it is said, is coming by land. From good authority we learn, that another vessel with more troops may be hourly expected. At present we are under no apprehensions from them, but we find exceeding bad effects have arisen among the blacks from the neighbourhood of the men of war, which we have great reason to believe will be very much encreased by the arrival of these troops.

The Committee think it their duty to give the Honourable the Convention the earliest information of this occurrence, that such measures may be taken as shall be judged most expedient. I have the honor to be, sir, by order of the Committee [&c.]

William Davies Secy

1. Virginia Misc., LC.

SAMUEL JOHNSTON TO THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH
CAROLINA ¹

[Extract]

[Edenton] 21st July 1775

A vessel from New York to this place brought over two officers who left at the Bar to go to New Bern, they are both Highlanders, one named McDonnel the other McCloud.² They pretend they are on a visit to some of their countrymen on your river but I think there is reason to suspect their errand of a base nature. The Committee of this town have wrote to New Bern to have them secured. Should they escape there I hope you will keep a good lookout for them. I doubt not the prudence of the Gentlemen with you will have suggested the necessity of securing the Highlanders and that proper measures have been adopted for that purpose.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 116, 117.

2. Brigadier General Donald MacDonald and Major Alexander MacLeod, the leaders of the Highlanders and Regulator force subsequently totally defeated at Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA ¹

Friday, July 21st, 1775

Whereas, it appeared upon incontestible evidence, that John Collett, commander of Fort Johnston, was preparing the said fort for the reception of a promised reinforcement, which was to be employed in reducing the good people of this province, to a slavish submission to the will of a wicked and tyrannic Minister; and for this diabolical purpose, had collected several abandoned

profligates, whose crimes had rendered them unworthy of civil society; and that the said commander, had wantonly detained vessels applying for Bills of Health, thereby defeating the salutary purposes for which the Fort had been established and continued – had threatened vengeance against magistrates, whose official opinion he chose to disapprove – had set at defiance the high sheriff of the county, in the execution of his office, and treated the King's writs, when served on him for just debts (which both as a soldier and a subject, it was his duty to obey) with the shameful contempt of wiping his b--k s-de with them – had with the most unparalleled injustice, detained and embezzled a large quantity of goods, which having been wrecked near the Fort, had the highest claim to his attention and care, for the benefit of the sufferers; in whose behalf, many and repeated applications had been legally made, in vain, to the said commander – had contrary to every principle of honor and honesty, most unwarrantably seized, by force, a quantity of corn, the private property of an individual; an act of robbery the more inexcusable, as provisions were never withheld from him, whenever he would pay for them – had basely encouraged slaves from their masters, paid and employed them, and declared openly, that he would excite them to an insurrection: It also appeared that the said John Collett, had further declared, that, as soon as the expected reinforcements should arrive, the King's standard would be erected, and that, to it should be invited all those (as well slaves as others) who were base enough to take up arms against their country.

The Committee of New Hanover and Wilmington, having taken these things into consideration, judged it might be of the most pernicious consequences to the people at large, if the said John Collett should be suffered to remain in the Fort, as he might thereby have opportunity of carrying his iniquitous schemes into execution. This opinion having been communicated to the officers, and the committees of some neighboring counties, a great many volunteers were immediately collected; a party of whom reached Brunswick, when accounts were received, that the said commander had carried off all the small arms, ammunition, and part of the Artillery, (the property of the Province) together with his furniture, on board a Transport, hired for that purpose, there to remain until the reinforcement should arrive, and then again take possession of the Fort: the original design being thus frustrated, but the different detachments having met at Brunswick, about 500 men marched to the Fort, and burnt and destroyed all the Houses, &c., in and about the same; demolished as far as they could, the back part of the Fortification, and effectually dislodged that atrocious Freebooter.

Resolved, therefore, that the thanks of the Committee be given to the officers and soldiers who, with such ready alacrity gave their attendance to effect a matter of so much real importance to the public.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 112–115.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Cruizer*, FRANCIS PARRY, COMMANDING ¹

July 75

Moor'd off the Fort [Johnston, in Cape Fear River]

Thursday 21st Fresh Gales & Cloudy, burnt the Carriages in the Fort, arrivd
a tender from Adml [Samuel] Graves

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety

[Charleston] Friday afternoon, July 21, 1775

Capt. [Clement] Lempriere, Capt. [John] Hatter, Capt. Tiefts and Mr. [Tunes] Tebout, attended.

Ordered, That they draw a plan and estimate for the secret service they are to be employed upon, and that they give in the same tomorrow.

1. *Collections of the South Carolina Historical Society*, II, 53, 54.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

No 22.

My Lord, A Sloop arrived on Sunday morning, with Dispatches from the Earl of Dunmore, and General Gage, to send forthwith a detachment of Sixty Men to the Earl of Dunmore at Williamsburg in Virginia.

The Troops were in a few hours, ready to imbark, but the Commander of the Sloop, represented that the Vessel wanted some Carpenters work to be done, before she could receive the Troops, which are now finished, His Majestys Troops are now going on Board. They will sail directly. I have sent your Lordship by them very important dispatches.

The Ordnance Stores are not yet arrived, I am, my Lord in some apprehensions about them. The *Phillipa* Cap. Maitland, bound here, and afterwards to Georgia, has been taken off the Bar at Georgia, by one of the Rebels Cruisers, and Carried to Savannah, the powder she had for the Merchants of this Place, six Guns which the Rebels have secured.

I am told, Carolina and Georgia have fitted out some Cruisers, one of ten Guns.

I wish the Ordnance stores and Gunpowder may arrive safe, I am quite impatient about them. . . .

St Augustine 21. July. 75

Pat Tonym

No 23.

My Lord; Doran, who is mentioned in Mr William Henry Draton's [Drayton] letter, Gave this moment this intelligence.

That he saw delivered at Charlestown in Carolina, a number of Sugar Hogsheads, that actually came from Jamaica, that, the Hogsheads were filled all with Gunpowder, that he actually saw the Hogshead open, and the Gunpowder, and could have bought as much of it as he pleased, if he had imagined Gunpowder was wanting here; that it has been constantly run from Jamaica to Charlestown, in that way, and from many other of the West India Islands.

We shall be in great distress for powder, if our Ordnance stores do not come safe to this port.

I have the honour to be with the greatest Respect [&c.]

St Augustine 21. July. 75

Pat. Tonym

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/555, LC Transcript.

22 July

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Scorpion*, JOHN TOLLEMACHE,
COMMANDING ¹

St Georges Shoals No 20 W 14 Leags Saturday 22 July 1775

[AM] Sounded 110 fams no Ground, saw a Sail to the Wtward Light
Airs and Clear, at 3 PM saw a Sail in the NW Quarter 1/2 past 6 hove to &
spoke His Majesty's Ship *Glasgow* from Boston on a Cruize, at 8 made Sail,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Lively*, CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 Moored in Nantasket Road

Saturday 22 at 11 A M a Transport made the Signal of Distress being on
Shore going out Sent the Boats to her Assistance [P M] Came
onboard the Admirals & *Boynes* Longboats with Marines to
Guard the Light House with Lieut Coalhurst –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 22 [July 1775]

Upon the Admirals consulting with General [Thomas] Gage on the best
Method to secure the People who were to be employed in repairing the Lighthouse,
it was agreed that a party of Marines should go from the Fleet to protect the
Artificers, which Party should be relieved in three days by a Detachment from
the Army. The Admiral accordingly ordered an Officer of Marines and thirty
Men from the *Preston* and *Boyne* upon this Service, the *Prestons* long Boat armed
attended the Party, and the Admiral wrote to Captain [Thomas] Bishop to con-
cert signals with them in case of an attack & to give them all the assistance in his
power & to let his tender cruize for the discovery of any approach of rebels.

With this Party the Engineers were of opinion the Light House might well be
defended, until Succours arrived, against 1000 men, and the Admiral expected
to have the Building soon repaired and a Light shewn as before.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 152, MassHS Transcript.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston July 22d 1775.

Sir I Yesterday received three Petitions from Simeon Turner, Master of the
Sloop *Race Horse*, Isaac Elwell of the Schooner *Judeth*, and James Jordon, of the
Sloop *Sally*: all which Complain of being detained, whereby they are disenabled;
to bring in those Supplies we are in such extreme want of the two latter say their
Cargoes are taken from them, without any Account given of them, and that they
have otherwise greatly suffered; such treatment will Occasion great distress to

His Majesty's Subjects here, and bring upon us evils, which of all things we should guard against

I am to beg the favor of you to enquire into those Complaints, as at this Time every encouragement should be given to those who assist us, and they should not have the least cause of Complaint, but be protected on every Occasion, and suffered to pass and repass without Molestation, that they may not discourage others from bringing the necessities of Life to us, and which has now become a very serious matter.

I am with Regard, Sir &ca.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP, H.M.S. *Lively*,
NANTASKET ROAD ¹

Sir,

Preston Boston 22 July 1775

I have sent an Officer with a Party of Marines to the Light House with three days Provisions. The *Preston's* Long Boat is to remain with them. You will give them all the Assistance in your Power and direct what Signal they shall make in case of an Attack or other danger, in Order that you may send them the speediest help. If your Tender could cruise in the Lighthouse Channel to Night and Tomorrow, she would more readily discover the Rebels Approach than by any other means.

I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 461, 462, MassHS Transcript.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] July 22. [1775]

The Men o' War have been very insolent & abusive the Week past, Stopping the Ferry Boats & repeatedly and almost Daily threatning to fire the Town. May God protect us from their Madness. A Specimen of the Sweets of the New de-Signed Governmt

1. Stiles, III, 46, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, July 22, 1775

Took into consideration the report of the Committee to devise ways and means to protect the trade of these colonies, and after some debate, the same was postponed to be taken up at some future day.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 202.

JAMES EARLE TO THOMAS RINGGOLD ¹

[Extract]

Corsica 22d. July 1775 --

Dear Sir I find by Micky's Letters that his Fears and Apprehensions for Events that he judges will probably soon overwhelm us are very great -- It is true that his Suggestions of Things are nothing more than what might generally be subscribed

to: But since Providence has ordered the Ministry to be so over sighted as Not to attack the weakest Colonies first that are fill'd with internal Enemies, whose Assistance woud have greatly facilitated the Execution of their hellish Schemes I can't help hoping that providence will continue its kindness in suffering the Necessities of Thousands the love of Justice of Many & the true old brittish Spirit of numbers warmly attached to the just & free principles of the Constitution to rouse timely enough to afford us Relief –

Is it not to be [hop]ed too that England's natural Enemies will embrace so great an Oppty to stab some of her Vitals & force her to withdraw her Fleets & Armies from our Destruction?

However as we can't tell what is to happen, it behoves us mightily to guard agt. the worse that can, I hope that the Wisdom of our Convention will amply & quickly as can be provide Arms & Ammunition (if to be had) for this defenceless Colony, and have them so distributed as to become of the greatest Use to us –

1. US Naval Papers, MdHS.

SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR., CHAIRMAN OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE, TO THE
COMMITTEE OF CHARLES COUNTY ¹

Gentlemen

Baltimore July 22d 1775

Your letter of the 17th was laid before our Committee yesterday; by their desire I am to inform you that the Certificates for the Goods Sent by Mr Johnson Gildart to Mr Winter are founded on Sufficient Assurances of their being legally imported. The Certificates granted for goods carried from this to other places, have been generally Signd by me as Chairman. Sometimes by the Clerk of the Committee. I happend to be lately in the Country when the aforementioned Certificates were Signd by two very respectable Members of our Committee. I think your objections to them are well founded, and that the admission of Certificates Signd by only one or two Members of the Committee unless such as are usually known to do Such Business might give Room for impositions. I Return you the same Certificates Signd by Several other Members of the Committee, Shou'd you in future receive certificates Sign'd by myself only whilst I continue Chairman you may regard them as Sufficient. The convening a Number of our Committee on every occasion that requires Certificates for goods Sold here wou'd be an endless Trouble. –

It has always been understood here that Mr. Johnson Gildart was and is Attorney in Fact for his Father James Gildart but how far he is otherwise connected with him as a Factor Agent or Partner is unknown to me or Such of the Committee as discuss'd the Subject yesterday, he was unable to attend the committee being Sick, but sent us a declaration by his Clerk that his Father was not concerned in the Purchase of Tobacco which Mr Winter was ordered to make: It is probable the purchaser can give you more Satisfaction on that head, if you can obtain a sight of his orders I am with great Respect [&].

S. Purviance Jun^r Chairman of the Committee

Directed to Geo: Dent Esqr Charles County

1. Balt. Com., LC.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Cruizer*, FRANCIS PARRY, COMMANDING ¹

July 75 Moor'd off the Fort [Johnston, in Cape Fear River]
Fryday 22nd Fresh Gales & Cloudy; spik'd the Guns, arriv'd a ship from
Glasgow:

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety. [Charleston] Saturday, July 22d, 1775

Mr Joseph Verree attended – was called in and reported that agreeable to the Orders received by him from the Council he attended on board the Scooner *Polly* [Joseph Gamball] Master, at Edisto, and received a hundred and one half Barrels of Gunpowder, containing 5025 lbs taken out of a Scooner from Georgia, under the care of Lieut. Dogherty. – That he had taken the Captains Receipt which he produced, for the same, to be delivered to our Delegates in the Continental Congress. And that the said Vessel sailed over Edisto Bar therewith, for Philadelphia, yesterday Morning early.

Saturday Afternoon

Capt. [Clement] Lempriere, who (with others) was appointed to draw a Plan and Estimate for executing a certain secret Service, gave in the same, and therein recommended

That employing two of the best sailing Pilot Boats be supplied for the Service, and also of two Canows – That the said Boats be victualled and provided with Provisions and other Necessaries for Six Weeks – That they be manned with 20 Men, and twenty Stand of Arms with Accoutrements complete be provided for them. – And he was of Opinion, that it would require £1000 to fit out with Provisions.

Which Plan & Estimate being agreed to by the Council

Resolved, That the Sum of £1000 be put into Capt. Lempriere's Hands accordingly.

1. Laurens Collection, SCHS.

23 July (Sunday)

TRISTRAM DALTON TO ELBRIDGE GERRY ¹

Sir

Newburyport July – 23d 1775

Capt [Michael] Corbet waits on you for your final Orders respecting his Voyage – The Brig will be compleat for Sea by Wednesday, if the Fish comes from Marblehead which I hear is on the Road – The Cargoe will exceed One hundred & twenty hogsheads Fish, besides Boards, Shingles &ca &ca

I think this Plan is so good that a large Capital should be employed – If you can any Way send by Capt Corbet two hundred half Joannes or more, or equivalent in hard Money, it must help the Voyage – He says you supplied him fifty Pounds for advances here, of which and of any other Supplies you may make Toward Cargoe please to advise P his Return –

As you are possessed of the Plan of the whole Voyage, I trust you'll give Corbet his full Orders – We have Intelligence by John Lee, Who arrived here this week from Hispaniola, that there was some Powder to be sold when He left the Mole – But as our Views are further a Field, than in the W Indies, and his going to Leward, if his Business fails to Windward, would be an entire Disappointment, provided He failed there also, I leave it with you, whither such a Risque should be run – more especially, when We have Reason to hope, the Prosecution of the Scheme in all its Parts, might lay a Foundation for some eminent Services in future – tho' even this Expectation ought not to deter taking wherever He can purchase it the Supply of an Article, so immediately necessary – As soon as the Brig is dispatched I will collect all her Bills, and wait on you with them – Nothing but this Business would have so long prevented me from seeing the Camps, and waiting on Mr [Jonathan] Mifflin & [Joseph] Read [Reed], to whom I was introduced at Philadelphia.

I have given Receipts for the Fish arrived from Gloucester, and Beverly, which was delivered here to me free of Charge – I suppose They will wait on you for Payment – As 60 hhds came packed I know not the Quality of the Fish – The Committees Who have my Receipts will, no doubt, make you proper Bills – as to Quality & Price, of which I am also unacquainted—

I remain with Respects Sir [&c.]

Tristram Dalton

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 100–102.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Preston*, CAPTAIN JOHN ROBINSON,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775	Remarks Boston Harbour
Sunday 23d	Sent the Longboat with an Officer a Serjeant a Corporal and 14 Private Marines to the Light House.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston July 23. 1775.

I had the Honor to receive your Letter of yesterday acquainting Me that petitions had been preferred to your Excellency by Simeon Turner, Isaac Elwell and James Jordan, Masters of Coasting Vessels complaining of being detained and thereby disenabled to bring Us those Supplies we are in Extreme want of; that the two latter say their Cargoes are taken from them without any Account rendered, and that they have otherwise greatly suffered. If our Supplies are to come by the way of Cape Ann Harbour, the complaint of Elwell and Jordan is most certainly just; for one was cut out of the Harbour where he was at Anchor, the other taken upon the point of going in; Turner's Vessel was with difficulty prevented from getting into Salem. – I hope, therefore, it appears plain to your Excellency that these Cargoes of Wood were not intended to come to Boston, but were for the Use of [the] Rebels; And that to grant their Masters the Indulgence your Excellency desires would operate directly to our prejudice by encouraging

Men, inclined from principle, to Supply our Enemies. Their Vessels and Cargoes therefore are, in my opinion, very justly ordered to be libelled and prosecuted to Condemnation.²

It gives Me Much uneasiness that your Excellency Considers the Seizure and detention of these Vessels to be improper, And I shall be extremely Concerned if, thereby, any intended supplies are prevented from Coming to Us; All such as are inclined to Supply Us pass without the least Molestation, Witness several that have lately Come in, and departed again – My orders are expressly to this Effect, but at the same time to seize whatever is evidently going into other Ports, which I think is agreeable to your Excellency's request.

I most earnestly desire to assure you that anxiously solicitous to co-operate with your Excellency, and to carry on the Kings Service in my department in the Most satisfactory Manner, I am perticularly unhappy when untoward circumstances occasion My endeavours to have a contrary effect. It would give me the highest satisfaction by any Means in My power not only to relieve the present distresses, but to Contribute in guarding against threatned Evils; And I will readily and thankfully receive any information for these or any other purposes of Government that your Excellency can occasionally give Me; being equally inclined to give every encouragement to those who are willing to assist Us, and to punish every one, who at this time shall dare to Supply the Rebels. I have the honor to be with great respect and regard Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. The sloop *Sally*, James Jordan master, from Georgia with wood, and the schooner *Judith*, Isaac Elwin master, from Sheepscot with wood, were cut out of Cape Ann Harbor by H.M.S. *Hope*. According to Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript, the wood was used among the ships of the squadron and the vessels were detained. The sloop *Race Horse*, Simeon Turner master, from Kennebeck for Marblehead, was taken by the *Merlin* and *Hope*, was libeled against, condemned, and sold.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 23d [July 1775]

A Letter was brought to the Admiral from General [Thomas] Gage with, and he also received Intelligence that a pirate Sloop from Mechias had been seen in the Bason of Minas in the bay of Fundy, but he informed Governor Legge that two armed Schooners were gone in quest of her, that the *Senegal* was likewise in that bay that he could constantly keep some of the Kings vessels on the western Coast of Nova Scotia for the security of the traders to & from those parts to Boston & Halifax.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 152, MassHS Transcript.

COMMITTEE OF RHODE ISLAND ASSEMBLY TO CAPTAIN ABRAHAM WHIPPLE ¹

Sr

Providence July 23d. 1775

We having received certain advice by Timothy Brown directly from Newport, that all the men of war sailed from Newport this Morning, and left the packet in possession of Mr [Aaron] Lopeze's schooner lately taken from Jamaica, This is therefore to desire you to sail as early tomorrow morning as you can, and go down

the bay till you are certain whether the ships are in Newport or not.² If they are not we advise your going out on the west side of Conanicut, go round the Light house and run into Newport harbor and go directly alongside of Hackers Packet now in the hands of our Enemies and bring her directly to Providence. You'll order Capt [John] Grimes either to be beating down to Newport as you run in or to go out before you or any other way as you may think will be best to accomplish the taking said packet.

The Commission is inclosed Mr [Samuel] Ward could not alter it so well as to make a new one which he will do tomorrow, and shall be sent to Mr Rhodes Arnold with Capt. Grimes.

We are [&c.]

Nicholas Cooke
John Smith
Dan^l Tillinghast

P.S. If the Ships should be in tomorrow, perhaps they may soon go out again & leave the Packet in possession of said schooner. therefore we hope you'll keep so good a lookout that you'll have possession of said Packet very soon.

1. Whipple Papers, RIHS.

2. The *Rose*, *Swan*, and *Kingsfisher* sailed from Newport Harbor on July 23, 1775, proceeding along the coast to the westward and anchored in New London harbor on the evening of July 26. They sailed from there on the morning of July 28, and reached Newport shortly after midnight on July 29, 1775. Journal of His Majesty's Ship *Rose*, James Wallace, Commanding, PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

JOHN ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia, July 23d, 1775

We have passed a Resolution that each Colony make such Provision as it think proper and can afford, for defending their Trade in Harbours, Rivers, and on the Sea Coast, against Cutters and Tenders. We have had in Contemplation a Resolution to invite all Nations to bring their Commodities to market here and like Fools have lost it for the present. This is a great Idea. What shall we do? Shall we invite all Nations to come with their Luxuries, as well as Conveniences and Necessaries? or shall We think of confining our Trade with them to our own Bottoms, which alone can lay a Foundation for great Wealth and naval Power? Pray think of it.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 87, 88.

24 July

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE CAMP AT CAMBRIDGE, JULY 24 [1775]" ¹

On Thursday last [July 20] the universal Fast Day,² a party of our troops in whale boats landed on Nantasket Point before day, and set fire to the Light House; at day light the men of war discovered and fired upon them. I was at Little Cambridge when the guns awakened me. — I ascended an eminence at a distance, and saw the flames of the Light-House ascending up to Heaven like grateful incense, and the ships wasting their powder. Our men proceeded from thence to Point Shirley, in order to drive off some young colts, which were there; a party of



(Top) Section from a plan of Newport, Rhode Island, 1777. (Bottom) British ship-of-the-line (third rate), c. 1750.

regulars attacked them, but were repulsed, and drive into their boats without the loss of a man on our side either killed or wounded; what loss the regulars have sustained, I have not yet heard. The party set fire to all the fishing houses and hay that were on the place, and brought off four Tory fishermen, who are now prisoners at the General's, together with one Whiting.

1. *Pennsylvania Journal*, August 9, 1775.

2. The Continental Congress on June 12 recommended July 20, as "a day of public humiliation, fasting and prayer."

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Monday, July 24, 1775

A Petition from the Committee of St. George's was read.

Ordered, That Mr. Watson, Mr. Greenleaf, Mr. Rice, Colonel Grout, and Colonel Sawyer, be a Committee to consider a request made by Mr. Dummer Sewall, that he might be released from his Bond to the late Provincial Congress, as surety to Edward Parry, Esq.

Afternoon

The Petition from St. George's was committed to Colonel Thompson, Captain Parker, and Mr. Woodbridge.

1. Mass. Arch.

RICHARD CRANCH TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Braintree July 24th 1775.

Dear Bror Sister Adams ² informs me that you complain that your Friends this way neglect writing to you. I believe a share of the Blame belongs to me, and shall now endeavour to make some amends.

We have lately had several little Expeditions from this quarter against the Enemy, a particular acct of which, as near as I can collect it from those who were present, I shall give you. — On the 11th Inst in the evening, about 400 Men (partly from the Camp at Roxbury, and partly of the Guards on our Shore) went off from Germantown in 47 Whale Boats, in order to sweep Long Island then surrounded with Men of War. Landed on the Island at 10 o Clock at Night, parted into two grand Divisions and march'd to the House. Majr Tuppham [Benjamin Tupper] commanded, and Capt Shaw who lately liv'd on Deer Island, conducted him to the House. Shaw burst in a Window and enter'd & Tuppham after him; the Men in the mean time being properly Station'd. They expected to have catch'd some Tories there, but found none of any Note. Our People came on so secretly that they were not known to be on the Island untill they enter'd the House; they demanded of the Man who was in the House "what People were on the Island?" and were answer'd that a number were in the Barn who had been sent from Boston to cut the Hay & make it. Upon which our People enter'd the Barn and seiz'd them all Prisoners before they knew they were in danger. Among the Prisoners in the House was a Lady perhaps une Fille de joie, who pretended to be on the point of Marriage with a Capt of one of the

Transports. 15 Prisoners, abt 30 Cattle, a Horse, and abt 100 Sheep, were brot off that Night undiscover'd. Next morning about 10 Whale Boats went on again in broad Day, from Dorchester to Burn the Barns & Hay on the Island (suppos'd to be abt 70 Ton) these Boats were discover'd immediately by the Men of War which surrounded the Island, and Barges & Cutters were sent to cut them off. Our People, however, burnt the House & Barns and got off without a Man being Kill'd or wounded in the Boats or on the Island tho' a most heavy fire was Kept up from the Men of War from above & below the Island whose Shot both ways swep't across the Island where our Men were, and tho' our Boats were pursue'd by the Barges & Tenders continually firing on them so near that they were sure of taking a number of our Boats as they tho't, yet we escap'd. Capt [Jacob] Gould of Weymouth, who was most expos'd, was told by the Officer of the Man of War to "yield for he was his Prisoner," Gould answer'd "not yet" and discharg'd his Musquet full at him, and encouraging his Men to pull up, he escap'd with the Skin of his Teeth. When some of our foremost Men were landed at the Head of the Moon, they fir'd briskly on the Enemy's Barges, and kept them off so as to secure the landing of the hindermost which were so hotly pursued. In this engagement one of our Men (Mr Clarke of Stoughton) was Kill'd.

Another Expedition has been from hence to Nantaskett & the Light House. Not many Days ago a small Man of War drew up close to the Houses at Nantaskett within the Gutt, and afterwards paraded it by coming up as far as Pig Rocks by Hoffs Neck and then lying off Hingham Cove [blurred], and then returning to Nantaskett again. These movements made our People conclude that the Man of War was sent to secure to [Thomas] Gage's Army, the Grain then ready to cutt on the lands at Nantaskett; especially as the Barge had seiz'd Mr Milton of Nantaskett & his Cart and Oxen and carried him & his Oxen to the Admiral, where the Oxen were kept but the Man after much examination releas'd. Under this perswasion, last Tuesday Night [July 18] our men from Germantown and the neighbouring shore to the amount of abt 400, Guards, Mowers &c pass'd over to Hingham in Boats, and from thence by land to Nantaskett, having engag'd a number of Carts to come over the long Beach. They with great expedition mow'd and sent off the Grain to the amount of 70 Cart Load, and having done that, on Thursday morning a Company commanded by Majr [Joseph] Vose of Milton, went over to the Light House, took down and bro't off the Lamps, brot off 1 Barrell of Gun Powder, severall Tierces of Oil, a quantity of old Cordage, Severall Boats &c and then Burnt the Light House, (but not the Dwelling House) then returning to Nantaskett they found that the Burning of the L:House had alarm'd the Men of War, and that their Barges & Cutters were sent down to attack our People, which they accordingly did, 7 of their Barges being lash'd together for that Purpose. A Hot Fire ensu'd for near an Hour but none of our Men were Kill'd and only two wounded; Our People try'd to draw them on Shore by seeming to run from them, but to no purpose, the men-of-War's-men seem'd evidently afraid to come near them; and at last put off so as to be out of the reach of our Musquetts. When Mr Milton was carried on board

the Admiral, he examin'd him very strictly about the Whale Boats that lately appear'd in the Harbour, what their Number was? where they were kept? whether he could Pilot his People to them &c? To all which he made such answers as gave the great Man no Satisfaction, especially when he told him that he understood that our People kept the Whale Boats drawn up into the Woods.

I fear you will be tir'd with the length of this Scrawl unless reliev'd by believing it to be design'd for your amusement, by your most affectionate Bror—

R[ichard] C[ranch]

1. Adams Family Papers, MassHS.

2. Abigail Adams's sister was the wife of Richard Cranch.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

Boston July 24th 1775

Separate

Very great Pains have been taken to starve the Troops and the Friends of Government in Boston, for no Article Necessary for the Support of Life is Suffered to be Sent there from any of the Provinces from New-Hampshire to South Carolina, and in most of the Sea-Ports Persons are appointed to examine everything that is embarked and where it is going. They endeavor to prevent also the Fishermen from Supplying the Town with Fish, by means of Whale-Boats that they have Seized at Nantucket, and have lately in those Boats destroyed the Light House off Cape-Ann and at the Entrance of this Harbour, to deceive Ships bound in here.

The King's Ships have Sent in a few Vessels laden with Flour and other Articles which affords some Relief to the Troops, tho' we hoped for more ample Supplies thro' their Means, as the Inhabitants begin to feel some Distress.

It was found upon a further Enquiry about the State of Fort William and Mary, in New-Hampshire that the light Pieces and Ammunition was what the People chiefly had carried away from the Fort, and that most part of the heavy Artillery had been left. Upon this Advice a large Transport under the Protection of a Ship of War was sent to Secure the Ordnance remaining in said Fort, and I enclose your Lordship a List thereof; which was brought away, and part of it is sent home in an Artillery Transport.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/92.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

Boston 24th July 1775.

Private.

We are obliged to use all Means to procure fresh Provisions, and to fit out our Transports & put Troops on Board to bring live Stock to us from where it is to be had. The Rebels have fitted out some Privateers to intercept our Supplies, and we are informed of one of two cruizing in the Bay of Fundy to take any thing coming here from that part of Nova Scotia.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/92.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

[Extract]

Preston Boston 24 July 1775

Sir As it may appear extraordinary that the Rebels should demand and quietly obtain the money in the Treasury of Portsmouth, belonging to the Province of New Hampshire, I think it necessary to inclose an Extract of a Letter from Captain [Andrew] Barkley on the Subject, that their Lordships may be satisfied the money might have been deposited on board the *Scarborough* if Governor [John] Wentworth had thought it proper, and that his Excellency had been often applied to for that purpose.

Since my Letter July 16 the Pilot of the *Margueritta* armed Schooner returned to Boston: I inclose his Account of the Transaction, together with an Affidavit of another Person received from Governor Legge at Halifax. As it is confidently reported that Rebel armed Vessels, from Mechias and other places, are cruizing to intercept the Supplies of Cattle and Provisions we endeavour to draw from the Bay of Fundy; I have ordered the *St. Lawrence* and *Hope* Schooners on that coast, with Orders to sink, burn and destroy these Pyrates or any aiding or assisting, wherever they can be found. The Schooners take under their Convoy two Transport Brigs for Annapolis Royal, and they or the *Senegal* are to return with the Transports, and several others now waiting at Windsor for Convoy.

I inclose a Copy of Intelligence that the Lighthouse on Thatchers Island, generally known by the name of Cape Anne Lights, are destroyed. And on the 20th some Rebels in Whale Boats went from Nantasket in a Calm and set fire to Boston Lighthouse which is at present rendered useless.

The Rebels have collected near three hundred Whale Boats in the different Creeks round this Harbour, and begin to make little Expeditions to the Islands. A few days ago one hundred and five Boats, full of men, landed on Long Island and carried off all the Stock. One of their party was a Seaman belonging to the *Falcon*, taken in Buzzards Bay, as related in my Letter June 16. This Man was placed Centinel, but concealed himself till the Rebels had left the Island, and then swam to a Canoe lying off, and by that means got on board the *Boyne*. His Report confirms what we before heard of the number of Whale Boats. From their Lightness and drawing little Water, they can not only outrow our Boats, but by getting into Shoal Water, and in Calms, they must constantly escape. It is not possible to guard every Island in this Harbour from such pyratral attempts without more armed Vessels and Men than can be had. Various are the Conjectures about the Design of the Rebels in bringing so great a number of Whale boats here, Robbing the Islands and burning the Houses and Hay thereon most certainly distresses the Garrison by depriving them of fresh Meat, Vegetables, Milk, Fruit and many other Advantages; but it is generally believed they were principally intended to land a Body of Men in the Night at the most defenceless parts of the Town, when a general attack should be made on the Lines, hoping, with the assistance of disaffected people in the Town, to occasion great confusion and terror and finally defeat his Majesty's Troops.

Others are of opinion that in a calm Night they mean to surprize one of the Frigates of the Squadron and carry her by suddenly pouring in great Numbers of People. And this leads me to mention that the very low Complements of his Majestys Ships at present make the Duty extremely hard in this Harbour. We are obliged to keep a number of Men and Officers in flat bottomed floating Battery Boats, placed in Shoal Water, to flank Boston and Charles Town Necks; To man an armed Transport and a Sloop; and occasionally to lend men to the Transports ordered on Service, instead of theirs who desert. In the Squadron, the Frigates, Sloops and Schooners are seldom without lent Men on board. These Draughts are from the three large Ships, who by that means are sometimes unavoidably left in a weak and almost defenceless Condition. I beg leave likewise to observe that the 20 Gun Ships and Sloops with their present low Complement of Men are Objects of the Rebels attention, who in their large Schooners and Sloops fancy they shall succeed by boarding when the Kings Ship is at anchor.

I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 153–156, MassHS Transcript.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, JULY 24, 1775

Newport, July 24.

From last Tuesday [July 18] about 2 o'clock, till near the same hour on the next day, this town was threatened to be fired upon from the three ships of war in this harbour, viz. the *Rose*, Captain [James] Wallace, the *Swan*, Capt. [James] Ayscough, and [the] *King fisher*, Capt. [James] Montagu, and also a tender: – for which purpose these ships were brought close in with the North-west part of the town, on Tuesday towards night; their tampkins [sic! tampions] were immediately taken out, and all the apparent preparations made for cannonading this town, which greatly terrified the women and children, especially those women who were with child. In the evening lanthorns and men were placed at the guns, and the most hostile appearance kept up, which twas possible for them to exhibit, and many women and children were running about, wringing their hands and crying in the greatest distress: – About half past 9, a cannon was discharged from the *Rose*, when the women really thought the firing on the town was begun, many of whom fainted away, and went into fits, and a number, we are told, absolutely miscarried by the fright. – However this gun was loaded with powder only, and the men of war gave out to a number of persons, whom they had stopped coming down the river, that they should not beat the town down till next morning, when they would certainly do it. – In the morning the like terrific scene was opened by firing another cannon, and seizing on four ferry-boats, a passage boat, with a number of passengers, and two wood sloops; the *Swan* moved down to the south part of the town, where she anchored with her guns pointing diagonally across the wharfs, so as to rake from thence up to the Parade and Court-house; here again all the tampkins were out, quantities of tar and other inflammatory and combustibile matter were put into the ferry-

boats, in order, as was said to set on fire, and send into the town to burn it, as a more expeditious way of destroying the town, than by cannon only.

At the same time that these boats were to be sent into the town, a number of men were to be landed at the south-end, to set fire to that part. Thus the most warlike and hostile parade was kept up to the highest degree, till near two o'clock on Wednesday; when, all at once, the boats were discharged, the ships weighed anchor and stood up the river. — The same evening the *Rose* got ashore on the north part of this island; but by taking out her guns, &c. she was got off, and the next day they all came down again to their old station.

We know not of even the shadow of a just reason for the above inhuman conduct; if the Captains of said ships have any reason to offer we should be very glad to publish them to the world: The story about two of the *Swan's* people being seized by a mob in town, gagged, carried to Bristol gaol, &c. had it not been absolutely disproved, would have been a most wretched pretext for firing on a defenceless town, in which there were not less than six thousand women and children. —

N.B. It must have been well known to the commanders of those ships, that there was not a single cannon in this town mounted for its defence.

The above three ships and tender are this morning going out, supposed on a cruize.¹

1. The journal of James Wallace, of the *Rose*, is silent upon the subject of this threatened bombardment. There is no mention of it, other than that the ship was abreast of the town. The journals of the *Swan* and *Kingsfisher* are a bit more illuminating. The former, for July 19, 1775, reads: "A M at 6 Sent the Long Boat and Pinnace to weigh the Stream Anchor ½ past got it on Board at 7 Sent a warp out to the Fort wharfe & hove up the small Br & Dropt further to the So ward at 9 Dropt the small Br & moord ship with the Stream Cable with Spring on & abreast of the Town People employed Clearing the Ship for Battering the Town [P M] got the Guns over and secured them."

The *Kingsfisher's* journal reads: "Anchored with Bt Br abreast Town . . . with *Rose* and *Swan* all hands at Qrs Carried out the Kedge Anchor to Stedy the Ship hauled our Broadside A Breast the Town."

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Lebanon] Monday 24 July 1775

The affair of the two armed vessels (being a principal occasion of this meeting) was taken up and largely discoursed. Letters received from a number of gentlemen from N. Haven, Middletown, Wethersfield &c relating to it read, &c. Capt. [John] Deshon, Mr. [Nathaniel] Shaw and Capt Giles Hall were present on that account and discoursed with &c., and they retired; and on further consideration &c, this Council are of opinion and do resolve, that Wm. Williams and Nathel Wales, Esqrs together with Capt. Deshon and Capt. Hall be a committee to [visit] Norwich, New London, and by the sea coasts to New Haven, and to Middletown, Hartford, &c. to enquire after and find out proper and suitable vessels for the purpose, the terms on which they may be had, the proper manning of them, the terms on which officers and men may be had &c, and give proper directions for preparing carriages for the cannon at N. Haven which may be

wanted, and what may be proper and necessary &c & thereof make report to this Council on Wednesday the 2d of August next, to which time this Council is to be adjourned.

1. Trumbell and Hoadley, eds., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 108, 109.

Connecticut Courant, MONDAY, JULY 24, 1775

Hartford, July 24.

By the Post from Cambridge, who left that Place after the Papers were printed, we are informed, that a Party of our Men had marched privately down to the Light House (about nine Miles from Boston) which was guarded by a small party of the Enemy, when a skirmish ensued, in which some Lives were lost on both Sides, but the Enemy soon gave Way. Our Party took several Prisoners, two or three Barrels of Powder, a few Barrels of Oyl, set Fire to the Light-House, and then returned.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 24, [1775]

Resolved, That the Boat to be launched by Emanuel Eyres, at Kensigton, be called the *Bull Dog*.

Mr. Robert Smith (Carpenter) appear'd at this Board with a model of a machine for obstructing the Navigation of the River Delaware and explained the Construction of it, which was approved of; at the same time he made an offer of his service in attending and overlooking the Workmen in building the same Gratis, for which this Board thanked him and accepted the offer of his services.

Resolved, That Capt. Charles Alexander be appointed to the Command of the Boat called the *Bull Dog*.

Resolved, That this Board meet at Kensington tomorrow Morning, at 11 O'clock to attend the launch of the Boat Built by Emanuel Eyres, and that they go from thence in said Boat to Gloucester, and there hold a Board.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 290, 291.

JOHN ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia, July 24th, 1775

We ought to have had in our Hands a month ago the whole Legislative, executive and judicial of the whole Continent, and have completely modeled a Constitution; to have raised a naval Power, and opened all our Ports wide; to have arrested every Friend to Government on the Continent and held them as Hostages for the poor victims in Boston, and then opened the Door as wide as possible for Peace and Reconciliation. After this they might have petitioned, and negotiated, and addressed etc. if they would. Is all this extravagant? Is it wild? Is it not the soundest policy?

One Piece of News, Seven thousand Weight of Powder arrived here last Night. We shall send some along as soon as we can, but you must be patient and frugal.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, 88, 89.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of The Committee on Monday the 24th July 1775,

The Committee resumed the Consideration of the Motion relative to Ashburner & Place & Johnson Gildart but thought it best to refer it further to Monday the 31st. and then adjourned to the Afternoon.

The Committee met according to adjournment

Capt Warring of the Ship *Totness* appeared and desired Liberty to land five Convicts Imported in the said Ship and Consigned Ashburner & Place but the Committee declined to give any Opinion on the matter as the Proceedings against James Gildart who is the Owner are already Publisht

1. Balt. Com., LC.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION ¹

[Richmond] In Convention July 24. 1775

Resolved, That no Flour, wheat or other Grain, or provisions of any kind be exported from this Colony to any part of the World from and after the fifth day of August next, until the Convention or Assembly, or the honourable the Continental Congress shall order otherwise; That no quantities of the said Articles, more than are necessary for the use of the Inhabitants be brought to, collected or stored in the Towns or other places, upon or near the navigable waters; that the respective County Committees be directed to take care that this Resolve be effectually carried into Execution; and that all contracts made for the sale & delivery of any such articles for Exportation between this time and the tenth day of September next be considered as null and void.

Payton Randolph Presidt

1. William H. Browne, ed., *Archives of Maryland* (Baltimore, 1892), XI, 41. Hereafter cited as Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.* See Randolph to Maryland Convention, July 27, 1775.

SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CLEMENT LEMPRIERE ¹

In the Council of Safety, Charles Town, July 24th 1775

The Council of Safety, elected and chosen by the Provincial Congress, begun to be holden on the first Day of June last, by these Presents testify, That Clement Lempriere, Esquire, has been, and is hereby appointed and commissioned to command in the Sloop *Commerce* belonging to New York, and over all and every Person and Persons, engaged to embark on board the said Sloop, under the Authority of the said Council of Safety. And the said Clement Lempriere is hereby ordered to proceed to such places, and to take such measures, as he shall think most proper, to procure Gunpowder for the Public of

this Colony which when he shall have procured he is ordered to convey to this Colony, with all possible Dispatch.

It is also hereby declared, That if any Commander or Officer, under the King's authority shall in any Degree ill-treat the said Clement Lempriere or any of his Company; the King's Officers now in our Power, shall be treated with equal Severity. Of which, all Persons are required to take due notice.

Given under the authority and by Order of the Council of Safety,

Henry Laurens, President

[Endorsed]

Ordered, That the foregoing commissions be engrossed, sealed, dated, and signed, by the President, and by him delivered sealed up, to Capt. Lempriere, with Orders not to be opened, until he shall be arrived in Sight of the Island of New Providence.

1. Drayton, ed., *American Revolution*, I, 334.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety [Charleston]

Monday 24th July 1775

Resolved, That Twenty Pieces of Cannon be immediately mounted so as to be moved wherever it shall be thought proper, and that proper Carriages be prepared for them.

Resolved, That Mr President, Mr [Thomas] Heyward, and Col. [Charles] Pinckney, be a Comee. to conduct this Business.

Resolved, That Capt. [Clement] Lempriere be directed to return to this Colony from the Service he is to be employed in.

P.M.

Ordered that the Secret Committee do provide a sufficient Quantity of all the necessary Tools and Implements for Fortification.

1. Laurens Collection, SCHS.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775 [Charleston Harbor]

July 24 Our voyage towards New Orleans [sic!] commenced.

1. Drayton, *American Revolution* I, 335-337. The exact title of the document is "Captain Hatter's Report to the Council of Safety, of the occurrences which took place on board of the sloop *Commerce*, Clement Lempriere, Esquire, Commander, in taking the powder from Captain Lofthouse, off Augustine Bar; and of the return voyage to Charlestown with the powder." It is hereafter cited as "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

25 July

"SCH. *Quero*. EXPRESS TO ENGLAND – TO FORESTALL GEN. GAGE'S DESPATCH ABOUT THE LEXINGTON FIGHT – (SUCCESSFUL)"¹

The Colony of the Massachusets bay to John Derby

1775		Dr		
Aprill	To Sundry Stores for my Passage to England	5	0	0
28				
May	To Expences at the Island White & Southampton	3	5	0
	To my Expences & Post Chaise hire from Southampton to London 80 miles a 9d p. mile	4	15	0
	My Expences in London	7	17	0
	Post Chaise hire from London to Falmouth in the west of England by the way of Portsmouth 294 miles at 9d p. mile.			
	Except the two First Stages from London which is 1/p: mile	11	8	0
	To my Expences from London to Falmouth	2	5	0
	To paid the Sarcher & waiters at Falmouth	1	0	0
	Sum Sea Coles for Fireing	1	4	0
	To Light money. Pierage, & Clearance at Castle &c	3	12	0
	3 bbls Bread a 19/& Carriage	2	17	8
	56 lbs Beef a 3d, 12 lbs Candles a 9d	1	3	0
	Small Bear, Greens &c for the People	1	15	0
	To Boat hire to Fill our warter at Falmouth		4	0
	To my Private Expences at Falmouth	2	0	0
	To Sundry Necessary Stores for my Passage home to New England	8	15	0
	To my time in Executing the Voige from hence to London & Back			

Starling £57 0 8

Salem 25 July 1775

Errors Excepted John Derby

Please to pay the within to Mr Elias Hasket Derby & You'l Oblige Your Very
Humble Sarvant

John Derby

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 206, 96, 97.

RICHARD DERBY'S ACCOUNT FOR HIRE OF SCHOONER *Quero* ¹

The Province of Massachusetts Bay to Richard Derby, Jr. Dr.

For the Hire, Victualling, Port Charges, Portledge Bill &c. for the Schooner *Quero*, voyage from Salem, in New-England, to Great Britain, and back to Salem aforesaid, in the Service of this Colony, with Depositions relative to Battle of Lexington, viz:

1775			
April 25	To 3 barrels Bread, weighing 2 cwt, 3 qrs, at 5s. 4d. per barrel	£3	9 8
	To 1 bushel Beans, 6s; 1½ bushel Peas, at 4s. per bushel	0	12 0
	To 1 barrel Flour, 18s; 25 pounds Candles, at 9s. per pound	1	16 9
	To Charges of Clearing at the several Offices	3	0 0
	To 20 tons Ballast, at 2s.8d. per ton; 175 feet Plank, at 8d. per foot	3	7 4
	To 2 cords Wood, at 13s.4d. per cord; Pail Smith, Tuttle and Plafrey, for labour, 15s.	2	1 8
July 19	To the amount of Men's Wages, as per Portledge Bill	56	17 11½
	To Hire of the Vessel from 25th April to 19th July following, 2 months, 24 days, for 62 tons at 6s. per ton per month		
	To Premium of Insurance on £300, out and home, 6 per cent.	18	0 0
	To Entry at the Custom-House: Collector's 15s.6d.; Do. Naval Office, 6s.9d.; Do. Comptroller's Office, 4s.6d.; Do. Impost Office, 5s. sterling is	2	2 4
		£143	9 2½

1775		Contra.	
July 19	By 3 Barrels Beef, at 40s. per barrel:		
	2 barrels Pork, at 54s. per barrel:		
	2 barrels Bread, weighting 1 cwt.		
	3 qrs. 26 lbs. at 25s.1d. per barrel	£13	8 2
	(returned in the Schooner)		
Aug. 27	By Cash received of W. Gray, £10 sterling	13	6 8
	is		
		27	4 19
	Errors excepted	£116	4 4½

Salem, 25th July 1775 R. Derby, Jun.

1. Mass. Arch.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER ¹

Sir I am directed by his Excellency Geniral Washington to inform you that Yesterday Afternoon 3 Men of War with a number of Transports sailed from Boston – They steer'd E.S.E. after they got out, but we cannot yet learn their Destination, or whether they have taken off any part of their Troops of the Enemy As their Designs are so much unknown to us, & it is possible they may move to N:York the General thought proper to apprize you of it, that you may be prepar'd for

such an Event; This he would have done with his own Hand but he has been much indispos'd for Some days past – I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

J R Sy

Camp at Cambridge July 25 1775 –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

COMMITTEE REPORT TO MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

In the House of Representatives Watertown July 25 1775

Your Committee apointed to take into Consideration the Motion of Major Dumer Sewall: for being Discharged from the Bond he is under on account of Edward Parry Esqr Relative to his Conduct Respecting a quantity of Masts &c

Beg Leave to Report that Said Sewell is Willing to Remain Still Bound so far as Respects the Safe keeping of Said Masts &c: but Desires to be Discharged from the Residue of Said Bond which your Committe are of opinion may be granted –

and your Committe are further of opinion that it will be Unnecessary for Colo Thompson to Remove said Masts to any other Place all which is humbly submitted

Abra^m Watson Jun Pr. orders

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 38.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Tuesday, July 25, 1775 Afternoon

Ordered, That Mr. Sewall, Mr. Jones, Col. Thompson, Mr. Bancroft, and Colonel Woodbridge, be a Committee to consider a Letter from the Committee of Deer-Island relative to the arrival of a Man-of-War of twenty guns, and several other Ships, at Penobscot; and also a Letter from the Revernd Mr. [John] Murray, on the same subject, and report.

The Committee on the letter from St. George's reported. The Report, together with the Letter, was recommended to the Committee just now appointed to consider the Letter from Deer Island.

Ordered, That this Committee sit forthwith.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 281, from Mass. Arch.

PORTIA (ABIGAIL ADAMS) TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Braintree July 25 1775

Since I wrote you last the Companys stationed upon the coasts both in this Town Weymouth and Hingham were orderd to Nantasket to reap and bring off[f] the Grain which they accomplished, all except a field or two which was not ripe, and having whale boats they undertook to go to the light House and set fire to it, which they effected in open day and in fair sight of several men of war. Upon their return came down upon them Eight Barges, one cutter one Schooner, all in Battle array, and poud whole broad sides upon them, but our Men all reached the shore and not one life lost, two only slightly wounded in their legs. They marched up a Hill and drew into order in hopes the marines would land, but they

chose rather to return without a land engagement, tho tis Thought they will burn the Town down as soon as our forces leave it. I had this account from Capt. [John] Vinton who with his company were there. These little Skirmishes seem trifling, but they serve to innure our Men and harden them to Danger.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 261.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Glasgow*, TYRINGHAM HOWE, COMMANDING ¹

1775 July [In Massachusetts Bay]

Tuesday 25 Strong Gales & Cloudy at 9 A M spoke the *Hannah* from London-derry for Philadelphia with Passengers ² at 11 brot too a Ship from Philadelphia for Lisbon laden with flour ³ Do sent the Lieut & 6 men on board her to take her to Bost[on.]

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

2. The ship *Hannah*, J. Ramage, Master, which landed its passengers at Newcastle in mid-August 1775, *Pennsylvania Journal*, August 23, 1775.

3. The ship *Charming Peggy*, T. Dowman, Master, which had cleared Philadelphia early in July, *Pennsylvania Packet*, July 3, 1775. At Boston the ship was passed out after the cargo had been bought for the British army, Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir./

Boston July 25th: 1775.

I think it proper to give you the Information contained in the Inclosed Extracts from Nova Scotia, that you may take such measures as you shall think Necessary

I am with the greatest Regard, and Esteem, Sir, [&c.]

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir,

Boston 25th July 1775.

I received the information your Excellency was pleased to send me this Morning – Most of the particulars have been already communicated to me by different Persons.

The Commanders of the two Armed Schooners who convoy the Brigs to Annapolis [Royal] have Orders to destroy all Pirates they can meet with, and are particularly informed of the One your Excellency has mentioned. The *Senegal* is in Penobscot Bay with the Wood Transports, the *Merlin* from Marblehead to Piscataqua, the *Falcon* from Cape Ann to Cape Cod; I hope some of these will get hold of the Pirate, if not, their being on the Coast will give Security to Vessels Navigating

The *Senegal* or the Schooners will call at Windsor for the Vessels waiting there for Convoy. I have the Honor to be, with great regard Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER OF THE FLEET”¹

Boston, July 25, 1775

The blockade of Boston, having occasioned a great scarcity of every thing, tenders were fitted and dispatched from every ship; and Mr. James Moore was appointed to command that vessel which went from the flag-ship. Sometime in May he sailed for Machias, about 80 leagues from hence eastward, to recover some guns which were lost in a wrecked schooner: at the same time he had two sloops under his convoy to load with wood for the use of the fleet and the garrison. In performing this business he was severely attacked by the Provincial troops from the shore, which he beat off with some loss on both sides; however they armed two sloops and when the tender attempted to go off they pursued her, and began a second engagement with more vigour than before; in this conflict Mr. Moore was wounded in three places, and was carried off the deck, desiring the people to maintain the fight gallantly to the last: but the want of his presence to animate them, greatly altered the circumstance, and the survivors submitted to the foe. The brave young man was killed with three of his men and three wounded tho' he laid till the succeeding day before he expired. While he lived his activity, sobriety, sensibility, honour and courage, made him respected and admired; he died on the point of preferment, a loss to his country and the naval service; and he is now universally lamented by the Admiral and the fleet, and by his shipmates in particular; for few young men had such merit to boast of, and fewer leave this world with so exemplary a character.

1. *Morning Chronicle and London Advertiser*, September 28, 1775.

“EXTRACT OF A GENUINE LETTER FROM BOSTON, DATED JULY 25, 1775”¹

No action has happened since the 17th of June; a few shots have been exchanged by scouting parties; one morning they beat in our advanced guard and burned the guard-house; and on the 19th instant they set fire to the light-house and one of our men of war lying but a mile from it; as it was calm we could not get at them, their whale-boats, in which they made their escape, out-rowing any of our boats, and a small island lying between them and the ship, prevented her firing on them. They took from the light-house a six pounder and a swivel.

1. *Morning Chronicle and London Advertiser*, September 11, 1775.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTYS SLOOP *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE, COMMANDING¹

July 1775

Cape Codd S E 3 Leagues

Tuesdy 25 At 1 A M Joind Compy with 11 Sail of Transports from Boston at noon parted Compy . . . [P M] fird 3 Six pounders Shotted and Brought too a Schooner at 9 P M Sent the Schooner to Boston²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

2. The schooner *Industry*, John Fisk, master, from St. Christophers for Salem, with rum and sugar. Fisk was allowed to sell his cargo in Boston, and “to depart with the vessel”, Graves’s Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND, TO SAMUEL WARD
AND STEPHEN HOPKINS ¹

[Extract]

Providence July 25th 1775

Capt. [James] Wallace in One of his mad Fits last Week drew up all Three of the Men of War before the Town of Newport and swore with the most bitter Imprecations that he would burn it. He fired several Guns over the Town which put the People, the Tories as well as the Whigs, into the most terrible Consternation. I heard that Two Women have since lost their Lives in Consequence of the Fright.

1. RIHS, Mss. Collection, XVI, 137.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, July 25, 1775

The Congress being informed that a quantity of the Continental gun powder amounting to about six tons and half, was arrived in this city.

Ordered, That the delegates of this colony take measures to have it sent under a safe convey with all possible despatch to Genl Washington at the Camp before Boston.

That the delegates be empowered to order a detachment of the riflemen raised for the continental army, consisting of at least two Officers and thirty men to meet the powder waggons at Trenton and from thence to escort the same to the camp.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 204.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, TUESDAY, JULY 25, 1775

Philadelphia, July 25

The *Nautilus* man of war is in the river off Chester; and, it is said, another is expected.

SCHEME FOR IMPORTING GOODS FROM CAPE FRANCOIS TO BE CONSIDERED BY
THE CONVENTION [OF MARYLAND] ¹

As it will be absolutely necessary to have frequent Intelligence from Europe and to Import manufactures from thence, should the present unhappy contest continue longer between Great Britain and America; The following Scheme is submitted to consideration. – That an Agent or Factor for the United Colonies should be established at Cape Francois in Hispaniola; – In order to supply North America with dry Goods, Powder &c He should Import them there in French bottoms from Nantes, Havre de Grace and Dunkirk; – That a Number of small Vessels known for prime Sailors carrying about four or five hundred Barrels of flour should be employed to ply from North America to the aforesaid Cape with flour chiefly Superfine, Rice and other valuable commodities to be there delivered to the said Agent, who in return would send by them to North America the Goods he should have imported from Europe & any commodities of the growth of Hispaniola that should be from time to time required. – From the said Cape the Agent may have a trade in french bottoms with the Neutral ports in the West Indies by which means a market for flour and other American commodities may

be extended to larger quantities then necessary for Hispaniola and proper remittances particularly in Rum & Spirit from those Neutral ports made at the Cape, from whence it should be sent to North America. – This Extensive trade would enable the Agent to make more remittances for payment of the Goods Imported from France – The defficiency may be made up by Venturing in proper times Vessels from North America with Tobacco wheat and flour to France, Spain – Portugal and Italy, as the proceeds of their Cargoes (over what should be necessary to procure them a loading of Salt and other goods thought proper to Venture to Import from thence on their return to North America,) may be remitted to the Agent's Correspondants in France. – Should it be thought proper to employ North American Vessels from the Cape to France, or to the Neutral ports, the same may be done with Safety by using proper means to Effectuate it. – There are Weekly and almost daily arrivals and departures from & to France at the Cape, by which the Agent may receive & forward Intelligences to and from Europe and North America – Cape Francois is the Port in the West Indies the nearest and best Situated for a short Navigation from and to North America. – Should the small Vessels Employed to ply from North America to and from the Cape, be required to be armed so as to give them a chance to defend themselves from Tenders, It may be done at the Cape cheaper then in North America. – This mode of Conveyance by the Way of the Cape is preferable to that Immediately from Europe, because it would be inconvenient for Small Vessels to go so long a Voyage, which it is well known they can with convenience and some degree of safety do to and from the Cape; beside by this means they would be less liable to a discovery by the Court of Great Britain. – There could be no risks on the goods Imported from France to the Cape, as a small premium of Insurances would cover all, and from the Cape to North America, should few of the Small Vessels employed be lost it would on the whole be inconsiderable. – Should a reconciliation take place between Great Britain and America, the goods Imported by the Agent from France or the Neutral Ports to the Cape would always be safe there, and in case they should not then be admitted in North America, the Agent may procure a market for them to some advantage & remit the proceeds thereof to France, from whence the ballance due to the Concerned may always be had. – A Person of Confidence may be established either at Nantes or Havre de Grace as an Agent or Factor for sake of conveying safer Intelligences, with which the Agent at the Cape Should chiefly correspond with and get the goods exported chiefly by him from France to the Cape, By their means Intelligence may be procured from and sent to the Friends of America in Europe, as soon if not sooner than any other way that may be thought of. – Should the United Colonies declaine carrying this Scheme into execution, May it not be done by the Convention of a Province or Provinces? or by a Number of Merchants Interested each for his respective Share or Shares, of the Sums they should think proper to Venture in it, and thereby from such sufficient Capital Sum to Effectuate it to their advantages & the general good of the United Colonies? –

1. Executive Papers Md. Arch. This undated document was probably prepared for presentation to the Maryland Convention, which met from July 26 to August 2, 1775. An approximate date would be July 25, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety [Charleston]

Tuesday, 25 July 1775

Resolved, That the following Orders and Commission be given to Capt. Lempriere.

South Carolina In the Council of Safety

Chas Town July 25th, 1775

To Clement Lempriere, Esqr

The Council of Safety elected and chosen by the Provincial Congress begun to be holden on the 1st Day of June last, By these Presents testify That Clement Lempriere, Esqr has been and he is hereby appointed and commissioned to command in the Sloop *Commerce* belonging to New-York, and over all and every Person and Persons engaged to embark on board the said Sloop on the intended Voyage under the orders of said the Council of Safety. And the said Clement Lempriere is hereby ordered to proceed forthwith, with the utmost Dispatch to the Island of New-Providence, on that Island to seize and from that Island to embark on board the said Sloop all such Quantity of Gunpowder as he shall find and be able to take on and from said Island, and then forthwith to return to this Colony and put into Tucker's Creek, Tucker's Island, North Edisto, and from thence to give Notice to the said Council of Safety of his Arrival with all possible Dispatch. And if the said Clement Lempriere shall not be able to seize any considerable Quantity of Gunpowder in the Island of New-Providence aforesaid, he shall then proceed to such Places and take such Measures, to procure Gunpowder, as he shall think most proper and then to proceed to Tucker's Creek aforesaid, and thence give due Notice as aforesaid. And for so doing this is your Warrant.

By Order of the Council of Safety.

[Here is repeated the order of the previous day]

Ordered, That the foregoing Commissions be engrossed, sealed, dated and signed by the President, and by him to be delivered up, to Capt. Lempriere, with Orders not to be opened until he shall be arrived in Sight of the Island of New-Providence.

All of which was thereby duly executed.

1. Laurens Collection, SCHS.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775 [Charleston Harbor]

July 25. Took on board our stores of provisions, &c.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

26 July

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

(Copy)

Halifax July 26th. 1775.

Sir, I have informed your Excellency of the fitting out a Vessel from Machias to cruise for the Vessels employed in carrying Cattle, Hay & other supplies for his Majesty's Fleets and Army by Depositions taken before his Majesty's Council, it appears they have Designs upon this Province, that the Provincial Congress have empowered Persons residing there to act against his Majesty, That they have been making inquiry about the Strength of the Fort of Annapolis, & at St Johns River, & I beg leave to inform you that the Inhabitants of both places & their Environs are such as have removed from New England, & that little or no Dependence can be had on the Militia there; that these Fortresses are without any Cannon for Defence & without Troops & much is to [be] fear'd if they shou'd Attempt any Descent there that no Troops can be spard from hence as your Excellency will see by the Return being now obliged to order thirty of the Militia on Guard every night for the protection of the Magazines here, & to patrol to the Navy Yard.

I also hear that a large Vessel of 130 Tons is fitting out at Pemiquid for the same purpose, & it is to be feared that the Navigation from the Bay of Fundy will be interrupted.

I am therefore of Opinion that it will become extreme Necessary to Station at least a Sloop of War with one or two Armed Schooners for the Protection of the Provision Vessels, and coast of that part of the Province, to cruise between Grand Passage & Passamaquoddy, by which means their intentions may be Defeated, and their Vessels taken.

The Magistrates at Annapolis have applied for some Cannon to mount on the Fort & Ammunition for the Inhabitants which I have Consented to send them by the first safe Conveyance, and as Captain [Henry] Mowatt was Bound to Boston I applied both to him & Captain [Edward] Meadows, but was informed by them that on Account of Captain Mowatts particular Orders from the Admiral my request could not be complied with.

It would be I apprehend for his Majesty's Service when Necessity requires it that Conditional Orders were given, that in such Cases the Armed Vessels might Assist in case of unforeseen Accidents, & which may happen & require a sudden remedy before it be possible to send advice to you The Militia here will chearfully Continue to do duty were the private men allow'd for their Duty, I apprehend that 12d per man for Privates & non Commission Officers for the Day on which they do duty only would be a sufficient inducement for their Continuance in Duty till they can be otherwise relieved for otherwise they cannot be obliged by the Laws here to perform in that Service.

I have received your Excellency's favour of the 14th Instant & shall take care that the new Recruits be carefully Trained, and as soon as they are fitted to do duty take care they mount with the other Troops.

I am sorry to find some of his Majesty's old Servants joined with the Rebels, which I could never have conceived to have happened. I am with great Respect [&c.]

Francis Legge.

1. Nova Scotia Papers, DAC. A copy in the Gage Papers, CL, is dated July 28, 1775.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND ¹

[Extract]

Camp at Cambridge, July 26, 1775.

Sir: Yesterday I had an Account that three Men of War and Nine Transports had Sail'd out of Boston and in Evening I received a Note the Copy whereof is inclosed. The great Distress they are in at Boston for fresh Provisions makes it extremely probable they may make some deprivations along the Coasts; I have therefore thought it Proper to give you the earliest Notice, that the owners of those Islands and the Inhabitants along the Coasts, may take the necessary Precautions for the Security of their Property.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 366.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, July 26, 1775

The Committee on the Petition from Deer-Island reported that an Address be sent to the honourable Board on the subject thereof.

Whereupon, *Ordered*, That Colonel Bowers, Captain Partridge, and Dr. Baylis, be a Committee to prepare an Address accordingly.

Afternoon

The Committee appointed to prepare an Address to the honourable Board, relative to the circumstances of the eastern part of the Colony, reported the following, which was accepted:

To the Honourable the Council of the Colony of the Massachusetts-Bay
May it please your Honours,

The papers accompanying this request will inform you of the critical situation of the inhabitants of the eastern parts of this Province. We request your Honours to take this matter under your consideration, and take such orders thereon as the exigency of their circumstances may require; and this House will concur in those measures which may be judged necessary for their defence.

Ordered, That Colonel Bowers, Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Jewet, Mr. Greenleaf, and Dr. Baylis, be a Committee to carry the above Address to the honourable Board, together with the Petition from Deer-Island, the Petition from St. George's, and the Letter from Mr. [John] Murray.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 282-284, from Mass. Arch.

Massachusetts Spy, WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1775

Worcester, July 26.

Last Thursday se'nnight [July 13] an armed barge belonging to the *Asia* man of war, in the harbour of New-York, came under the stern of the Connecticut armed sloop lying at a wharf, with an intention as was thought to seize the Captain, but he having intimation thereof, levelled a swivel upon the barge, and declared he would sink her unless the crew Immediately surrendered; which they were forced to do, and were sent prisoners to Gen. [David] Wooster's camp, and the barge hauled up on the wharf; orders afterwards arrived from the General for the barge to be returned, she was broke to pieces in the launching, and when in the water in possession of one or two of the people belonging to her was set on fire by some person unknown and consumed.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO FRANCIS LEGGE ¹

Sir,

Preston Boston 26 July 1775 –

I thank your Excellency for transmitting the Master of the Brigs Affidavit concerning the rebellious Proceeding of the People at Mechias. They have taken one of his Majesty's hired armed Vessels of small Force. I am persuaded it will be the last, and that the Pirate will soon reap the Reward of his Perfidy. Two armed Schooners are gone in quest of him. The *Senegal* is also in the Bay, and some of the King's Vessels shall constantly be on the Coast for the Security of the Traders from and to Nova Scotia, the Bay of Fundy &c.

I am &c

Sam Graves

His Excellency Governor Legge at Halifax

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 464, MassHS Transcript.

NATHAN IRISH TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen, As the Defence of this City and suburbs from an attack by Water is at present the Concern of its Inhabitants, I beg you will excuse one of them for offering with the greatest Deference to your better Judgment, a Model for a Boat or Gundalo.

This Model is nearly proportioned to a boat of 45 feet Keil, 11 feet Beam & 3 feet 6 inches deep in the Clear from Ceiling to the top of her Gunnels, and towards her stern to have erected a Parapet or Breastwork to be made Cannon proof, (if it should not prove too heavy) with a porthole in it for an 18 or 24 pounder, and on the Top of the Breastwork to have 2 Wall pieces fixt and 2 Swivels on the Bow for keeping off Boats, &c, and to have as many oars as may be found convenient, & to row either end foremost as may be required. A Boat of this kind I presume whould be kept as near right ahead or right astern of an Enemy as possible, and to keep her stern to the Enemy. If there should be any Batterys on the Banks of the River when the Enemy is nearly opposite to such Battery would be a Convenient time for these boats to attack them because a Ship

could not bring her Broadside to bear on the Boats without being in danger of being Raked fore and aft from the Battery. I do not mean to reflect on the Construction of the Boats already built, nor the manner in which 'tis proposed to fight them, But if they are to fight only from behind Islands as I have heard some people say, I fear the Enemy will get abreast of them before they can get many Shot at her, and they will be too much exposed to the Enemy's Broadside, which may prove fatal to the men and boat. A Boat thus fortified (if it should be found practicable) may not only keep in the Channel as long as she can fight, but may venture nearer an Enemy than those where the Men are so much exposed. The Breastworks in the Model is proportioned to about 4 feet thick, 19 feet long, and 4 feet above the Gunnels. I would propose the logs to be of Cedar or some other light wood and the Middle part to be filled with Cotton, Wool, Cork, or something light, I do not mean to prescribe the Dimentions of the Boat nor any thing about her, but only with submission, to offer a Sketch of one for your Consideration; that if it meet with your approbation it may be improved upon by better Judges than me. And if you disapprove of it, I hope you will ascribe my boldness to the anxiety I have for my Country, and please to Return the Model to,

Your very Humble Servant,
July 26, 1775

Nat. Irish

1. Hazard *et al.* eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, vol. IX, 638.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 26 [1775]

Emanuel Eyres, the Builder of the Boat called the *Bull Dog*, not being able to launch her yesterday, she was this day launched and the Members of the Committee of Safety there present embarked on board said Boat and went to Gloucester, but found it inconvenient to hold a Board there.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 291.

Pennsylvania Journal, WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1775

Philadelphia, July 26.

Monday last [July 24] arrived here the brig *Polly*, Capt. [William] Greenaway, with a load of salt from Liverpool, with which she is to return in a few days.

On Sunday last arrived at Newcastle his Majesty's ship *Nautilus*, where we are told she is to lay for "the protection of our trade," in the courtly style; but, in plain English, to pick our pockets, and try to enslave us.

LAMBERT CADWALADER AND JOHN WILCOCKS TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

The Committee of the City & Liberties of Philada having last Night recd an Application from a Gentleman in this City to supply the Man of War now in the River Delaware ² with a Quantity of fresh Beef have appointed us a sub-Committee to wait on the honble Congress to take their Opinion concerning the

same in Order that a general Rule of Conduct may be found for the several Committees whose jurisdictions border on the River & Bay of Delaware to whom similar Applications may be made ³

Philada 26 July 1775

Lamb^t Cadwalader
John Wilcocks

1. U.S. Revolution Collection, L.C.

2. H.M.S. *Nautilus*.

3. The Journals of Congress are silent as to this application.

“ASSOCIATION OF THE FREEMEN OF MARYLAND” ¹

July 26, 1775.

The long premeditated, and now, avowed design of the British government, to raise a revenue from the property of the colonists without their consent, on the gift, grant, and disposition of the commons of Great Britain; the arbitrary, and vindictive statutes passed under colour of punishing a riot, to subdue by military force, and by famine, the Massachusetts Bay; the unlimited power assumed by parliament to alter the charter of that province, and the constitution of all the colonies, thereby destroying the essential securities of the lives, liberties, and properties of the colonists; the commencement of hostilities by the ministerial forces, and the cruel prosecution of the war against the people of the Massachusetts Bay, followed by General [Thomas] Gage's proclamation, declaring almost the whole of the inhabitants of the united colonies, by name or description, rebels and traitors, are sufficient causes to arm a free people in defence of their liberty, and to justify resistance, no longer dictated by prudence merely, but by necessity, and leave no alternative but base submission or manly opposition to uncontrollable tyranny. The Congress chose the latter, and for the express purpose of securing and defending the united colonies, and preserving them in safety, against all attempts to carry the abovementioned acts into execution by force of arms, Resolved, that the said colonies be immediately put into a state of defence, and now supports, at the joint expence, an army to restrain the further violence, and repel the future attacks of a disappointed and exasperated enemy,

We therefore, inhabitants of the province of Maryland, firmly persuaded that it is necessary and justifiable to repel force by force, do approve of the opposition by arms to the British troops, employed to enforce obedience to the late acts and statutes of the British parliament, for raising a revenue in America, and altering and changing the charter and constitution of the Massachusetts Bay, and for destroying the essential securities for the lives, liberties, and properties of the subjects in the united colonies. And We do unite and associate, as one band, and firmly and solemnly engage and pledge ourselves to each other, and to America, that we will, to the utmost of our power, promote and support the present opposition, carrying on, as well by arms, as by the continental association restraining our commerce.

And as in these times of public danger, and until a reconciliation with Great-Britain on constitutional principles is effected (an event, we most ardently wish may soon take place) the energy of government, may be greatly impaired, so that even zeal unrestrained, may be productive of anarchy and confusion; WE do in like manner unite, associate, and solemnly engage, in maintenance of good order, and the public peace, to support the civil power in the due execution of the laws, so far as may be consistent with the present plan of opposition; and to defend with our utmost power all persons from every species of outrage to themselves or their property, and to prevent any punishment, from being inflicted on any offenders, other than such, as shall be adjudged by the civil magistrate, the continental congress, our convention, council of safety, or committees of observation.

1. Broadside, Hollyday Papers, MdHS. An original draft, with a slightly different preamble, and some other textual alterations, is in the Red Book, vol. III, Md. Arch.

MILITIA OFFICERS AT WILLIAMSBURG TO THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION ¹

WILLIAMSBURG, July 26, 1775.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Convention:

We, the officers of the several Vounteer Companies here assembled, beg leave to inform you that this day, on mature deliberation, it was resolved in Council immediately to secure all the publick monies in the hands of the Receiver-General, Naval Officers, and other Collectors for his Majesty. Mr. Rob't Prentis, in consequence of our requisition, hath rendered an Acc't on Oath, by w'ch there appears to be in his hands £317,14,2½, as Clerk to the Receiver-General, and has engaged on Oath that he will neither directly or indirectly pay away any part thereof, or any sum that he may hereafter Collect, without your directions. And that you may be fully informed of our proceedings, we have thought proper to enclose you a Copy of his affidavit, together with Copies of the Instructions to the officers of the Several Detachments, who are ordered to wait on the Receiver-General, Naval Officers, and other Collectors, to secure the Monies of the Crown in their hands, till we c'd receive an Answer from you relative thereto. This step would not have been taken, without first obtaining y'r concurrence, could we have thought the circumstances of the case did not require an immediate procedure, but when we acquaint you that this day we rec'd intelligence that J. Earnshaw, one of his Majestie's Collectors, has lately sent a very considerable sum of the publick money on board the *Fowey*; that, from the best information, we think it more than probable the other crown officers will soon follow his example, and believe any period of delay would be dangerous, and tend to defeat our purposes; for these reasons we hope to meet with your approbation, and do assure you we shall readily submit to y'r Determination of this and every other matter when you shall interfere.

We are, very respectfully, Gentl'n [&c.]

N.B. – Since writing the above, we are informed that a vessel belonging to a Man of War has lately carried off from the Naval Officer at Hampton all the money in that office, amounting to upwards of £900, which is sent to Boston.

1. Gilmer Collection, VHS.

CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

Cruizer Cape Fear 26 July 1775

I received by Mr Logie two Acts of Parliament restraining American Commerce, an Order of Council prohibiting the Exportation of Arms and Ammunition, General [Thomas] Gage's Proclamation, and an Account of the Action on the 17th June, which Governor [Josiah] Martin was very anxious for, as the People of South Carolina have a very different Account published and sent thro' Provinces, which has had a very bad effect on many of the People in the back Country; I don't learn that there is a least Prospect of a better disposition in the Province; they threaten me with an Attack, and have seduced most of the men from the Merchant ships now here to enlist on shore, giving a Bounty of near five Pounds sterling. If I am attacked my chief dependence is on Swivels and small arms, my Deck being so weak in some parts as I doubt whether it bear much firing even with the three Pounders, our heaviest Metal. I have sent a Seaman who I have borne for some days as a Supernumerary.

The Governor and Council have desired me (at a Council held on board the *Cruizer*) to raise and victual any of his Majesty's Subjects who may come to me for protection; many have waited till Opportunities to leave the Port. I hope you will approve of it, and be pleased to give me an Order for so doing.

I am &c

Francis Parry

Defects of Sails and Rigging

The standing Rigging fore and aft unserviceable. All the sails much worn and decay'd and unfit for their proper Uses, except one fore topsail and one fore-topmast stay sail.

Cables Short – Best Bower of 10½ inches_____	one
Small Bower of 10½ inches_____	one
St[r]eam Cables of 6 ins._____	one
Hawser of 4½_____	one

Pinnacle and Cutter old and unfit for Service, and Boatswains Stores of all sorts wanted.

Defects of the *Cruizers* Hull: The footlines bad and two or three of the Beams. The Starboard Cathead sprung, some of the Deck very much worn. The Sloop very leaky under the Naval Woods, Rudder Irons very much worn, sides and Decks leaky, and Bottom very foul

F. P.

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 462, 463, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety

[Charleston] Wednesday, July 26, 1775

The Council issued an order on the Treasury for the payment of one thousand pounds currency to Col. Henry Laurens, to reimburse so much advanced by him to Capt. Lempriere, for a special service.

1. *Collections of the South Carolina, Historical Society*, II, 63.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce*, BY CAPTAIN
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775 [South Edisto River]

July 26. Sailed over the bar, with the wind at N.E. and rain; at 6 P.M. anchored at South Edisto.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

27 July

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1775

Cambridge, July 27.

Last Wednesday se'nnight [July 12] embarked from Dorchester-Neck, Col. [John] Greateon, with 96 Men in ten Whale-Boats, for Long Island, in order to remove from thence some Stock and Hay. On his Way he was fired upon by the Men of War lying near said Island, but notwithstanding the very heavy fire from the Ships, he proceeded; when not finding any Stock on the Island, he fired the Barns, in which was a Quantity of Hay, he not being able to remove it; as he perceiv'd several Barges, Cutters, and an arm'd Schooner coming upon him, having executed his Designs, so far as to deprive our Enemy of the Advantage they might receive from the Hay, &c. which he destroyed, he retreated; and when on board, he found himself again beset by the Savage Enemy, who perhaps would have taken some of the hindermost Boats, had it not been for the good Conduct of the Commander, and a Party from Squantum, posted on the shore, who by a warm fire drove off the Enemy; they killed one of our Men on the shore, and it is asserted by one in a Boat that there were two of the Enemy killed. The House caught fire from the Barns and was consumed.

Since our last Major [Joseph] Vose and Major [Jotham] Loring have returned from Nantasket, & brought off about 1000 Bushels of Barley, which they cut. — After they had secured the Barley and Straw, they went and burnt the Light-House, took three Boats with four Men belonging to Boston, which were a Fishing brought off three Casks of Oil, and about 50 lb. Powder from the Light-House; they then burnt the Barn and Hay the Brewsters. Notwithstanding an almost incessant Fire from the Men of War and Tenders, we had only two Men slightly wounded.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON ¹

Camp at Cambridge, about 5 miles from Boston,

Dear Brother:

July 27, 1775.

On the 2nd Inst. I arrived at this place, after passing through a great deal of delightful Country, covered with grass, (although the Season has been dry) in a very different manner to what our Lands in Virginia are.

I found a mixed multitude of People here, under very little discipline, order, or Government. I found the enemy in possession of a place called Bunker's Hill, on Charles Town Neck, strongly Intrenched, and Fortifying themselves; I found

part of our Army on two Hills, (called Winter and Prospect Hills) about a Mile and a quarter from the enemy on Bunker's Hill, in a very insecure state; I found another part of the Army at this Village; and a third part at Roxbury, guarding the Entrance in and out of Boston. My whole time, since I came here, has been Employed in throwing up Lines of Defence at these three several places; to secure, in the first Instance, our own Troops from any attempts of the Enemy; and, in the next, to cut off all Communication between their troops and the Country: For to do this, and to prevent them from penetrating into the Country with Fire and Sword, and to harass them if they do, is all that is expected of me; and if effected, must totally overthrow the designs of Administration, as the whole Force of Great Britain in the Town and Harbour of Boston can answer no other end, than to sink her under the disgrace and weight of the expense. Their Force, including Marines, Tories, &c., are computed, from the best accounts I can get, at about 12,000 Men; ours, including Sick absent, &c., at about 16,000; but then we have a Cemi Circle of Eight or Nine Miles, to guard to every part of which we are obliged to be equally attentive; whilst they, situated as it were in the Center of the Cemicircle, can bend their whole Force (having the entire command of the Water), against any one part of it with equal facility; This renders our Situation not very agreeable, though necessary; however, by incessant labour (Sundays not excepted), we are in a much better posture of defence than when I first came. The Inclosed, though rough, will give you some small Idea of the Situation of Boston, and Bay on this side; as also of the Post they have Taken in Charles Town Neck, Bunker's Hill, and our Posts.

By very authentick Intelligence lately received out of Boston (from a Person who saw the returns), the number of Regulars (including I presume the Marines) the morning of the Action on Bunker's Hill amounted to 7533 Men; their killed and wounded on that occasion amounted to 1043, whereof 92 were Officers. Our loss was 138 killed, 36 Missing, and 276 Wounded.

The Enemy are sickly, and scare of Fresh provisions, Beef, which is chiefly got by slaughtering their Milch Cows in Boston, sells from one shilling to 18d Sterling per lb.; and that it may not get cheaper, or more plenty, I have drove all the Stock within a considerable distance of this place, back into the Country, out of the Way of the Men of war's Boats; In short, I have, and shall continue to do, every thing in my power to distress them. The Transports are all arrived and their whole Reinforcement is Landed, so that I can see no reason why they should not if they ever attempt it, come boldly out and put the matter to Issue at once if they think themselves not strong enough to do this. they surely will carry their Arms (having Ships of War and Transports ready) to some other part of the Continent, or relinquish the dispute; the last of which the Ministry, unless compelled will never agree to do. Our Works, and those of the Enemy are so near and quite open between that we see every thing that each other is doing. I recollect nothing more worth mentioning. I shall therefore conclude with my best wishes, and love to my Sister and Family, and Compliments to any enquiring Friends, your most affectionate brother.

1. Fitzpatrick ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 371–373.

Dear Brother

Camp at Cambridge about 5 Miles
from Boston July 27. 1775

On the 2^d Inst I arrived at this place

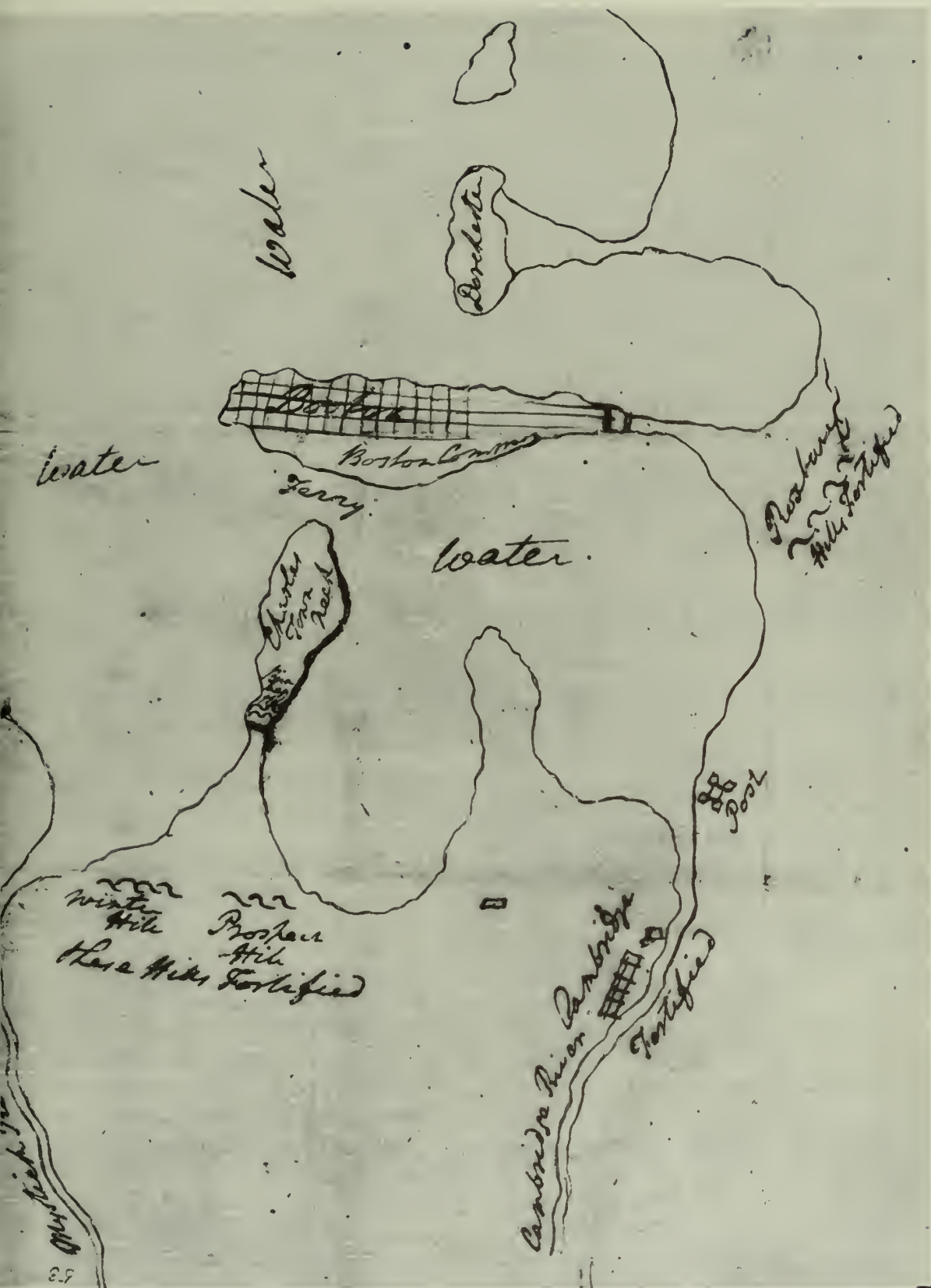
and the Country: For to do this or to prevent the
from penetrating into the Country with Fire and
sword & to harry them if they do, is all that
is expected of me, and, if effected, will totally
overthrow the designs of Administration, as the
who a Fortress of Great Britain is. The Town and
Harbour of Boston can no longer weather out
than to send her under the disgrace and weight
of the aspersion — Their Force, excluding Marine
Forces &c, are computed from the Sea Force to be
at about 11000 Men, our own including the Army
at about 16000, but then we have an Army of
Eight or nine Miles to guard, & every part of it
we are obliged to be equally attentive, whilst they
situated as it were in the Centre of the Province
can head their whole Force (having the entire
command of the water) against any one part
of it with equal facility, this renders our
task very agreeable, though it is so far from
being, by incessant labour (Sunday's excepted)

that we are in a much better posture of service
now than when I first came. — The Inclosed, though
rough and give you some small Idea of the Situation
of Boston & Bay on this side as also of the Port.
they have taken in Charles Town Neck, Bunker
Hill, and our Posts. —

enguring Friends

Y^r Mos^t affect^d Brother

G. Washington



Manuscript map of Boston and vicinity, referred to in the preceding illustration.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL
CONGRESS ¹

Sir

Camp at Cambridge, July 27, 1775

Nothing material has occurred in either camp since I had the honour of addressing you on the twenty-first instant by express. But on Tuesday [July 25] three men of war and nine transports sailed out of Boston Harbour, and stood a course about east-south east.

One Groves, who came out of Boston the same evening, informed the officer at one of the outposts, that the Transports had on board six hundred Men, and were bound to Block Island, Fisher's Island and Long Island, to plunder them and bring off what cattle they may find. The fellow returned again into Boston, under such suspicious circumstances, that it has led me to doubt the truth of his intelligence. A deserter, who came in afterwards, informs me that it was given out in their camp that they were either gone for Indians or fresh provisions, and that each Transport had but twenty Men on board. Upon this intelligence I immediately wrote to Governor [Nicholas] Cooke, of Rhode Island, and to General [David] Wooster, that they might use proper precautions for removing the cattle off those islands and the coasts and to prevent any surprise. As we are confirmed by every account in the scarcity of fresh provisions in the enemy's camp, and particularly by this deserter, who says they have had none since the Battle of Lexington, it is very probable this voyage may be only intended for a supply; but it may possibly be otherwise. I thought it best to transmit the intelligence to the honourable Congress, that they may forward it to the Southward, or take such other steps as they may judge proper.

Since writing the above three men (deserters) have come out, which make four in twenty-four hours. Their accounts correspond with those of the first who came out, and which I have related above.

I have the honour to be, Sir, [&c.]

G^o Washington

1. Papers CC, 152, I, 39, NA.

BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO ROBERT MORRIS ¹

[Extract]

Head Quarters [Cambridge] July 27, 1775

You ask me for News, we have no News, and that I think is good News for America. We go on strengthening our Lines & Redoubts, and shall very soon be in so Strong a Camp, that I think rashness itself will not dare to attack us. Desertion begins to take place from Bunker's Hill. I should not wonder at its increasing to a degree alarming to The Ministerial Generals. Bad Salt Pork and Dry Pease is all these Soldiers have had to eat since the beginning of May, and the Water in, and near that Hill, is pernicious to Health, in consequence of Bad Food and Bad water, Fluxes & Scurvy, rage amongst the Troops & Carry off Numbers. We on our side are in good Health & Spirits, and not a Doubting, or Disponding Countenance to be seen, in Boston the Contrary is said to be Visible, about Twenty Transports & a Man of War, are sailed from Boston, with about 400 Men on board, to Plunder Provisions. It is imagin'd they are gone towards Long

& Rhode Islands. If the Inhabitants are Watchful, they may cutt off this Party. I should be glad to know what effect the Lexington Fight had upon the people of England. I don't mean immediately after hearing it, but when Time and cool Reflections upon the Consequences had taken place . . .

1. *Catalogue of Autograph Letters and Documents* (Philadelphia, 1926), 32.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N.¹

Sir

Preston Boston 27 July 1775

I have received your letters July 3d and 30th of last Month, One of the latter covering a Copy of an Association in favour of Government which I hope is sincere, and not intended to deceive for their immediate preservation. The Tories are landed, and the *Phoenix*, having landed her Cargo of Flour and Sugar carries back your people. I have sent the *Glasgow* to reinforce you, and hope with the Assistance of that Ship, which is very well manned, you will not let the Rebels seize a post of so much consequence to his Majesty's Service.

We are in hourly expectation of Letters from England in answer to our Account of April 19. In the mean time we must be contented with cutting off the Rebel's Supplies by all means in our power as usual.

Everything at present is quiet on both sides – The Rebels have destroyed Boston Light house and those on Thatchers Island at Cape Ann, of which you will give Notice to all coming this way. – Letters I have received lately from New York contain Accounts similar to yours concerning the Rebel Generals. Washington passed the River in Sight of Captain [George] Vandeput. It cannot surely be long before we shall be at a Certainty with respect to the Measures to be pursued with the Americans! In the mean time have an Eye upon their pyritical Fleet, destroy every one of them you can meet with, and preserve your post by all means. Upwards of three hundred Whale Boats are collected about this Harbour: The Rebels have actually plundered Long Island, and 'tis thought will soon attempt something greater. The Person who owns seven Hogsheads of the Rum seized in Naraganset Bay appears to be an object worthy of relief, and I am glad to find by Mr [G.] Gefferina you have hinted as much. We are greatly distressed for Beef both Salt and fresh; [James] Montagu in the Sound can only take Melasses: It is unlucky we cannot get hold of either their ammunition or Provisions I shall send something to you immediately upon my hearing from England. I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 156–158, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Scorpion*, JOHN TOLLEMACHE,
COMMANDING ¹

Thursdy 27 July 1775

First & Middle parts Light Breezs and Hazey with Rain, latter mode and fair Sounded 55 fam hard Ground at 4 P M saw the Land from WNW to NWBN ½ past 11 Came to with the Bt. Bower in 23 fam. fir'd a Gun & made a Signal for a Pilot at 12[midnight] Repeated the Signal,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

BENJAMIN HALLOWELL TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir, I am extremely sorry for the absolute necessity I am under of exhibiting to you a complaint against Admiral [Samuel] Graves.

His unjustly obstructing me in getting my property even after my submission to the heavy contribution he most arbitrarily has laid me under is the unhappy cause of this Address to your Excellency. He still without any Color of right obstinately persists in preventing me the use of lawful means to cut and make my grass on Gallop's island into hay & bringing the same to town for my own consumption.

The particulars of what hath passed between the Admiral and me from the first application to this time in that business, I beg leave to inclose for your Excellency's perusal, which will fully open to you the whole of the treatment I have received from that Gentleman.²

Both as a Subject and Servant of the Crown I must beg Your Excellency's interposition that so I may obtain common justice which I[s] now denied me by Admiral Graves

I am Sir, [&c.]

Benj Hallowell

Boston 27, July 1775.

1. Clinton Papers, CL.

2. Enclosures were his narrative covering his conversations with Admiral Graves on 3 and 4 July, and his subsequent letters of July 5, 7, 9 and 20, 1775.

COMMISSIONERS OF HIS MAJESTY'S CUSTOMS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Sir At a Consultation held at the Generals by your desire in May last, upon the Subject of the Boston Port Act, it appeared to be the opinion of the Attorney General that Vessels might be admitted into this Harbor under certain circumstances & be Stationed at certain places under your immediate direction but not upon any account to be permitted to unload any part of their Cargoes – We are to request you will inform us if any and what Vessels have arrived in this Harbor since that time, and whether they have been ordered by you to any particular station & have remained in the state in which they arrived. –

signd Hen Hulton W^m Burch Benj^a Hallowell

Custom house Boston 27th July. 1775. –

1. Gage Papers, CL.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Sir,

Tyonderoga July 27th. 1775

Since my last of yesterday, Capt. [Jeremiah] Halsey, who has commanded the Sloop ² since she was left by her former Commander, arrived at this Post. He reports that the Schooner *Liberty* is returned from her Cruize towards the North End of Lake Camplain – that about Isle la Mott she fell in with two Canoes, containing three Frenchmen and as many Indians – that the[y] in-

formed the Capt: that Gov [Guy] Carlton had in vain attempted to prevail upon the Savages to act agt us – that the Canadians would be neuter, perhaps act in our Favour, that a pickett Fort, surrounded with a Ditch, is erected at St Johns – that Preparations were making for mounting Cannon – that the regular Troops at that Place consisted of about four Hundred & fifty Men – that two Men from Crown Point, who were carrying an Indian Boy on his Return from Mr [Eleazer] Wheelock's School into Canada, had been made Prisoners & detained, and that a scouting Party of regular Troops had been almost as far South as Mr Gillelands (about 35 Miles from hence).

Capt [Remember] Baker who left Crown Point with the Party to carry the Indian Boy, but separated from him, fell in with some Indians at Missique. Their Information confirms the above. His is enclosed.

In this Situation of Affairs, no Manoeuvre appears to me more necessary than an immediate Movement to St Johns, which will determine what we are to expect from the Canadians; and thus known, any future military operations in their Quarter may be regulated by it. But how to get there – all the Craft I am possessed of (and I have already bought or engaged all the Pittaugers belonging to the Inhabitants here) will not carry at the utmost more than five Hundred & fifty Men, nor are any of the stores mentioned in a former Letter of mine as yet arrived here. It is probable from the Letter which I yesterday transmitted to you, that they have not yet left New-York; and without them I cannot proceed, even if I had Boats; for as my whole Stock of Powder will be less than 3 Tons, when that from Philada arrives, I must necessarily not fire a gun without certain Execution, and therefore want the entrenching Tools, which are Part of the Articles, to make the Approaches up to their very Ditch; and that cannot be done with the few Tools I have here. Altho you will perceive by the enclosed Return that my Stock of Provisions is very scant, yet I shall not be detained on that Acct as it may follow me.

I shall make all the Dispatch I possibly can, and move the Moment I am in a Condition for it. It appears to me highly necessary that more Powder shd be sent up; for even If I should be fortunate enough to succeed against St Johns with the little I have, it cannot be expected that much would be left. But if I should be under the disagreeable Necessity of retreating, the Want of it might be followed with the Loss of this Fortress and Command of the Lake. I am Sir [&c.]

Ph. Schuyler

[Endorsed] Read in Congress Sept 14th 1775

1. Papers CC, 153, I, 71, NA.
2. Continental Sloop *Enterprise*.

New York Journal, THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1775

New York, July 27.

Yesterday an express passed thro' this city on his way to the Congress at Philadelphia – we hear part of the advices he carried were, that Capt. [John] Darby, sent with provincial dispatches from Salem after the battle of Lexington, was returned there again from England, where he stayed 6 days. General

[Thomas] Gage's dispatch vessel had not arrived when he left England. — That a few days ago a party of provincials had burnt the Boston light house, having first secured the oyl found in it, taken up a number of stakes, placed to direct passing vessels, carried off a large flock of cattle and destroyed a considerable quantity of hay.

Extract of a Letter from Cambridge.

Capt. Darby arrived in England in 27 days from Salem. The accounts he carried of the battle, were published, Lord North was thunder struck at the sight — Lord Dartmouth sent for Capt. Darby, with impatience to see him, but he was advised not to put himself in their power. The people were much surprised at the account, the merchants distressed on account of their property . . . Capt. Darby's vessel plied on and off for him and never went into any harbour, nor was it known in what part of England he landed. Gen. Gages dispatch vessel sailed for England 4 days before Capt. Darby.

RIVINGTON'S *New York Gazetteer*, THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1775

New York, July 27.

On Tuesday last [July 25] arrived at Sandy Hook his Majesty's ship *Fowey*, Capt. George Montague.

JOHN DENNIS, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION OF NEW BRUNSWICK, TO HENRY WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF NEW YORK ¹

Gentlemen,

City of New-Brunswick, July 27th 1775.

Your favour of the 21st instant came safe to hand, the contents of which was duly observed. Application was immediately made to Mr. Merrill, who says, about three weeks past a person coming from Egg Harbour, when within the hook, he saw a boat standing down our bay that he thought was loaded with flour, which boat he believes went alongside the man-of-war; this is all he ever heard or knows of the matter. Every other inquiry in our power has been made, but can make no further discovery. All intelligences or discoveries of every action inimical to American liberty, and every matter of instruction for our better preservation and protection, will ever be paid a due regard to, and cheerfully received by the committee of this city.

Assure yourselves, gentlemen, that this Committee has, and ever will be ready to render to their country every service in their power, and will continue to give a strict attention to, and duly observe all resolutions formed by the Continental Congress.

We are with esteem, Gentlemen, [&c.]

John Dennis, Chairman

1. *N.Y. Prov., Cong.*, II, 68.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, July 27, 1775

On motion, *Resolved*, That the sum of twenty five thousand dollars be paid by the continental treasurers to Reese Meredith, George Clymer, Samuel Meredith and Samuel Mifflin, Merchts of the city of Philada and that the like sum of twenty five thousand dollars be paid by the sd Treasurers to Philip Livingston, John Alsop and Francis Lewis, Merchts of New York, to be by them applied to the purpose of importing gunpowder for the continental armies, and that they be allowed out of the same five pr Cent: for their trouble and expences therein, that they keep all their proceedings as much as possible a secret from every other person but the Congress and the general of the continental forces for the time being; that they keep up a correspondence with the sd general, and make such dispositions of the powder they may import as he shall order.

[Endorsed] This most secret, not to be published

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 210, 211.

CAESAR RODNEY, A DELAWARE DELEGATE IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, TO
THOMAS RODNEY ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia July 27th 1775

By a Veshel arrived about an hour ago, from Bristol, We have a London paper informing us of the Arrival of the Veshel that Went Express from the people of Boston to London Giving them an Accot of the Battle of Lexington – upon the Spreading of this News there, the Ministry (it seems) published in the papers that they had Recd no accounts from America by this many people were lead to discredit the accounts brought by the Massachusetts Express – However Arthur Lee (now an Alderman) publishes imediately in the papers that all those who doubted the truth of the News – Might Repair to the Mantion House, Where the Depositions taken relative to the Lexington Affair were deposited for their perusal and Satisfaction; When the Ship left Bristol the News was generally Credited, However She left there too Soon to know much of the Effect it had on that Side the Water – We Shall know more of this Matter before long, till When I am Convinced the Congress Will not Rise – Whether they may then or not I Cannot now pretend to Say – However I Do know that they are heartily Tired – and so am I Your [&c.]

Caesar Rodney

1. Rodney Papers, HSD.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 27 [1775]

Mr. Nathaniel Irish presented a Boat or Gondola for the inspection of this Committee.

Resolved, That Mr. Thomas Wharton return him the thanks of the Board, much commending his ingenuity and attention to the Public Safety.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 291.

JOHN ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia, July 27, 1775

There is another Quantity of Powder arrived in New Jersey, about 5000 Weight from So. Carolina. and it is said that another Boat has arrived in this River with about Six or Seven Tons. It will be ordered to the Generals Washington and Schuyler.

We have voted fifty Thousand Dollars for Powder to be got immediately – if possible.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 93.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL ¹

[Philadelphia] 27 [July, 1775]. This day, was launched, up town, a [galley] as another of [the] same construction, was launched last week, down town, each of them to row with — oars, to carry — cannon, — men, and small arms.

1. William Duane, ed., *Extracts from the Diary of Christopher Marshall Kept in Philadelphia and Lancaster, During the American Revolution 1774–1781* (Albany, 1877), 33. Hereafter cited as Duane, ed., *Marshall's Diary*.

PEYTON RANDOLPH, PRESIDENT OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION, TO THE
MARYLAND CONVENTION ¹

Gent.

Richmond in Virga July 27, 1775

The Convention of Delegates for this Colony now sitting, have almost unanimously, come to the inclosed Resolution for stopping of the Exportation of all kinds of Provision after the 5th day of next month.²

At a Time when the most secret acts are practising to furnish our enemies with the means of protracting the unhappy Dispute with the Mother Country, the necessity of adopting this measure appeared so evident that this Colony have chearfully sacraficed a very considerable part of its property by agreeing to this Resolution.

I am directed to transmit the Resolution to you as early as possible, & have no doubt but you will as chearfully come to a similar one.

I am with great Respect [&c.]

Peyton Randolph
President of the Convention.

1. Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*, XI, 40.

2. See Resolution of July 24, 1775.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Tamer*, EDWARD THORNBROUGH
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775

In Rebellion Road So Carolina

[Thursday] 27 [A M] saw a Packet of[f] the Bar Little wind & hazey
P M sent the Lieut over the Bar on Board the Packet to receive
the Falmouth Male at 5 returned the Lieut with the Male in
Order to secure the Government Letters ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

2. *Ibid.* The *Eagle* packet, which sailed for Falmouth on August 22, 1775.

HENRY LAURENS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY, TO
CAPTAIN CLEMENT LEMPRIERE ¹

Dear Sir –

Charles Town 27th July 1775 – past midnight

Notwithstanding the inclosed Letter, or I Should Say the Letter in which this is inclosed, is Signed by order of the Council of Safety – I do not like it – it was written late in the Evening when Gentlemen seemed desirous of retiring to their Beds & disinclined to reconsider or even fully consider – I therefore, now they are all probably on their pillows, take the liberty of recommending & desiring, you will, in the first Instance, if you meet the Brig offer to purchase the Gun powder at Six or even Seven pounds Sterling P Ct & Muskets & Ball, if any, at prices in proportion & for the amount you may draw on me as President of the Council of Safety & depend upon it such draughts to the amount of Fifteen Hundred pounds Sterling if needful shall be paid, if the Council will not justify this act – I must for their & my own Sake so far this request of mine cannot work any contradiction to the Councils orders which must be obeyed if there is a necessity for it, in Case the Captain of the Brig. will not sell – if he will then certainly we shall be all much better pleased by a purchase than we shall be to obtain the articles by force & violence – I wish you success in all your enterprizes & beg you to add my Compliments & good wishes to the Gentlemen your Companions & I remain with great regard &c –

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, I, 66, 67.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775 Port Royal Creek

July 27 Fresh gales, with thunder squalls; and a great deal of lightning; weighed and sailed up Port Royal Creek, where we anchored.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

28 July

DAY & SCOTT TO WILLIAM SHIRREFF ¹

Copy/

Halifax July 28th 1775.

Sir It is extremely Mortifying that three Vessells have been ready to Sail for five Weeks, with Hay, and refreshments for the Army; and dare not go out least they might be taken, particularly as the Army are sickly and much in want of fresh Provisions, good Sir please to direct what we are to do, the Pirate has been seen in the Bay several times and their intentions are to destroy the provision Vessells,

We have repeatedly Applied to Captain [Edward] Meadows for a Convoy, which he cannot grant; twice we had Ordered the Vessells, to Sail, but as we could not Afford the loss ourselves, we have countermanded those Orders, and now wait your directions, we have made Engagements for About 1800 Tons of Hay, at various prices.

We are Sir &ca

(Signed) Day & Scott

1. Gage Papers, CL., enclosed in Gage to Graves, August 9, 1775. Shirreff was Deputy Quartermaster General of the British Army, Boston.

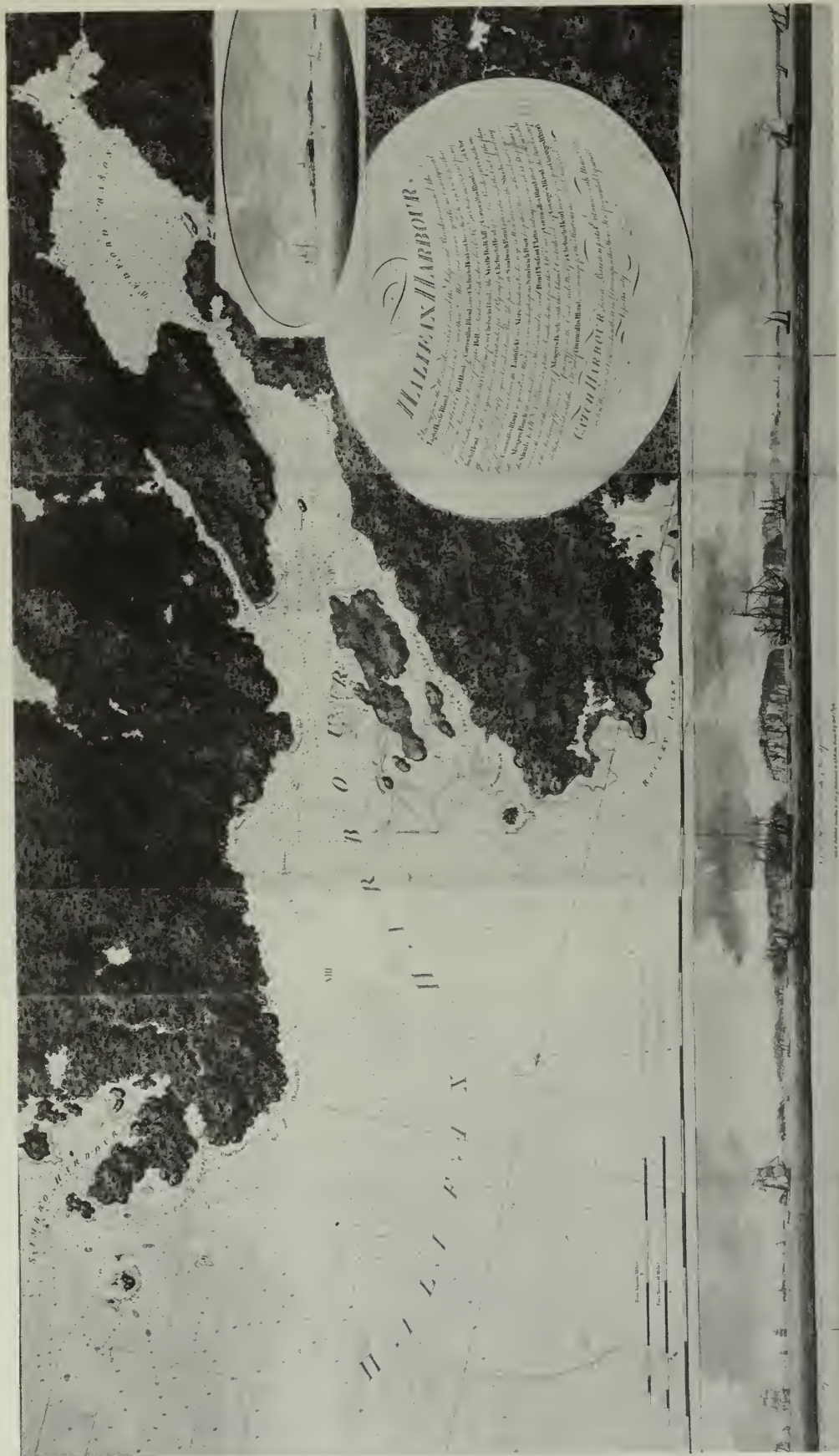


Chart of Halifax Harbor, Nova Scotia, and approaches, 1781.



(Top) *Entrance to Halifax Harbor, 1803.* (Bottom) *Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1764.*

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Friday, July 28, 1775

A Petition of Eli Stiles, praying an allowance for his time and expense in bringing Prisoners from Machias, was read, and committed to the Standing Committee appointed to examine Accounts, &c.

Afternoon

The Secretary brought down from the honourable Board the following Message, signed by fifteen of the Council, which he read to the House, viz.

Council Chamber, July 28, 1775

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

We have taken into consideration the critical situation of the inhabitants of the eastern parts of this Colony, and think it expedient that some measures be speedily taken to prevent the enemies of the Country from plundering the said inhabitants of their cattle and sheep, &c., or in any wise of getting a supply there of these or any other articles; wherefore we recommend it to you, to make such an addition to the forces already raised and stationed in the County of Lincoln as you shall judge needful for that purpose, and to make suitable provision for their necessary supplies.

Ordered, That Dr. Church, Col. Bowers, Mr. Batchelder, Major Fuller, and Mr. Rawson, be a Committee to consider a Petition of Mrs. Apphia Jones, praying this Court to give directions for the appearance at this Court of her husband, confined a prisoner at Machias; ² or otherwise afford him such relief as this Court shall judge proper.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 286, 288, from Mass. Arch.

2. Ichabod Jones.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston July 28th 1775.

Sir/ I have the honor to transmit you Copys of two letters I have received from the Agents of the Transports. As times are become more critical than ever; and by Information both to you and myself, the Rebels have a Number of boats, with which they can mean us no good, I am to beg of you to make such a desposition of the Transports as may put them beyond danger from the Enemy and under the protection of his Majesty's Ships, I am likewise to beg you to consider the situation of the *Symmetry* and to take such measures as to make her servicable, and as soon as you are enabled to place some Ship of War in her Station that may do the duty effectually; when she may be removed,

I am with great Regard, Sir, &ca

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir,

Preston Boston July 28 1775.

By Letters lately from Halifax I find a terrible Fire had like to have happened in his Majesty's Yard at that place. It broke out in the Paint Cabin in the Boat house about ½ past 10 in the Night of the 8th instant. By timely assistance it was extinguished in less than half an hour; though not without alarming the Town. This is the second time within a twelve month.

The very next Morning after the Action at Lexington on the 19 of April I dispatched Orders to Captain [Edward] Medows of his Majesty's Ship *Tartar* (whom I had intended for the Gulph and River St Lawrence) to stay at Halifax for the protection of the Kings Yard and Stores That Ship has accordingly remained there, and every Intelligence from thence proves the necessity, not only for a well manned Ship, but a much greater Force for Security of that Magazine. I am informed that the Ordnance Store House wherein there is upwards of four thousand Stands of Arms, is situated entirely out of the reach of assistance from the Ships; and as a great many People from this Province (notoriously disaffected) have removed themselves to Halifax and other parts of Nova Scotia, there is reason to fear the worst actions from such an Influx of Rebels, where they can do much Mischief. However I hope the Vigilance of Captain Medows and the Officers of the *Tartar*, and those of the Yard, will baffle every secret attempt to destroy or injure it.

I expect the *Canceaux* Armed Ship and *Halifax* Schooner from thence every day, and I have also directed Lieutenant [John] Knight in the *Diligent* Schooner to leave the business of sounding for the present and come to Boston, having more pressing Service for him than what he is now employed on.

In this Harbour there is only the *Somerset*, *Boyne*, *Preston*, and *Lively*.

In consequence of an application from General [Thomas] Gage (a Copy of which is inclosed) I shall place either the *Falcon* or *Merlin*, when they arrive, in the *Symmetry's* Station; though if I had one it ought to be a stout Frigate.

Never were Ships more wanted than at present for various Services; In particular to seize every thing intended for the support of the Rebels or that may arrive and fall into their hands, and to remain and form a proper force in different parts of the Harbour.

The great number of Whale Boats collected here requires all possible Vigilance on our parts to prevent a Surprise, and necessarily occasions a great deal of Boat duty.

The want of fresh Provisions and the hot Weather begin to be felt in the Squadron, and Fluxes incapacitate numbers from doing their Duty, but as yet this Disorder is not fatal. I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 158–160, MassHS Transcript.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 28 [July 1775]

By the Brig *John* bound to Virginia, the Admiral wrote to the Earl of Dunmore, Governor of that Colony to assure his Lordship that it would give him great satisfaction to be able to send him such a naval force as would effectually command the navigation not only of the great rivers but of the whole coast, but at present the King's Squadron in America was barely sufficient for the Northern Provinces and really would not admit of being lessened except on the most urgent occasions; that if government should think fit to enforce the laws, and compel the Americans to do what was right for themselves, his Majesty's fleet in these Seas must be considerably augmented, and he should then avail himself of his Lordship's hint respecting the great rivers, which empty themselves into the Bay of Chesepeak, by sending there what force could be spared, and that he should be happy at all times to receive any information from his Lordship for the good of the King's service, and was extremely concerned the weak state of the Squadron would not at present admit of his sending any more Ships to the Southward. The Admiral informed his Lordship that Captain [John] Macartney was sent to relieve Capt. [George] Montagu, heartily to cooperate in every measure for the Kings service and give every assistance in his power; and that, altho' there was little reason for such an expectation, the Admiral sincerely hoped the people under his Excellency's government might yet accept the terms his Majesty most graciously held out to them, before it was too late, return to their duty and thereby avert the miseries impending if they persisted in their present senseless and rebellious proceedings. The Admiral added that he presumed his Lordship was no stranger to the transactions of the rebels in this and the neighbouring provinces; that on our parts we were anxiously expecting arrivals, and the ultimate determination of Great Britain with respect to her colonies, now avowedly in arms and contending for absolute independence and empire.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 160, 161, MassHS Transcript. The letter to Dunmore is in Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 464-466, MassHS Transcript, and contains nothing more than in the foregoing narrative.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Scorpion*, JOHN TOLLEMACHE,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 latter [part] mode. and fair . . . at 6 A M hove in to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable
Friday 28 Fir'd a Gun for a Pilot at 8 Weigh'd & came to Sail at 10 Came
onbd a Pilot. P M Empd working into Nantasket Bay in Com-
pany with His Maj. Ships *Merlin* & *Falcon*, at 8 Came to in Boston
Harbour with the Bt Bower in 5 fam water, Veer'd to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable
found riding here His Majs Ships the *Preston* Vice Adml [Samuel]
Graves and *Sommerset* with a large Fleet of Transports.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

Connecticut Gazette, THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1775

New London, July 28.

Yesterday some People were sent from the Men of War in this Harbour, who spiked up three Cannon which for some Years have lain on the western Point of the Harbour.

Thomas Allen's Marine List

On Tuesday 27th, 7 P.M. Arrived in this Harbour His Majesty's Ships of War the

Rose, commanded by

[James] Wallace,

Swan,

James Ayscough,

King Fisher,

[James] Montagu,

With a small Sloop, Tender.

27th. Meridian – The above now lay at Anchor in this Harbour.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT, TO CHRISTOPHER
LEFFINGWELL, NORWICH ¹

Sir –

Lebanon 28th July 1775 –

I received your Letter of Yesterday respecting the Alarm occasioned by the Arrival of three Men of War at New London – In Answer to your Quere – must say – I think it prudent to keep up good Guards – with Injunctions to keep the strictest Look out – any Mischief to happen to the Flour – or *Molass[es]* at the *Land'g* – must be very unhappy – it is very probable *their* Design is partly to intercept any further Supplies of Flour by Water – 'tis probable I shall be in Norwich Tomorrow – when possibly some further Circumstances may more fully disclose their Views & Intentions – At Norwich, I shall be able to consult Part of my Council upon any Emergency – you'll please to comunicate this Letter to Colo Jed: Huntington & who will be able to give the Necessary *Orders* for this Occasion, at least for present –

I am Sir [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull

1. Trumbull Papers, YUL.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, July 28, 1775

The Congress being informed that a quantity of Gunpowder belonging to the Continent is arrived in some part of New Jersey,

Ordered, That the delegates of New Jersey do take care that the said powder be safely conveyed to Dobbs Ferry on the North River.

On motion made, *Ordered*, That the Colony of Virginia be supplied with one ton of gun powder from the next quantity arriving here, and that from the same supply Pennsylvania be repaid the powder heretofore borrowed by the Congress, if the same shall not be wanted by Genl Washington.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 212.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 28 [1775]

Agreeable to the 1st Resolve of the 18th July, Colo. [Daniel] Roberdeau deliver'd to this Board two Lists of Medicines from the Physicians of the Hospital.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 292.

WILLIAM REYNOLDS TO CAPTAIN GEORGE GOOSLEY, ANTIGUA ¹

Dr Sir

Virginia York July 28th 1775

I last meeting presented your order to Marree but was not fortunate enough to receive a shilling which was a very great disappointment to me as I am really distress'd for money to remit Mr Norton on our Exchange was settled at 15 P Ct. your order on Marree is £60.5 – & the freight of the 3 hhds Rum which I paid makes your debt to me £62.10 Curry which at the Exchange amounts to £54.7 – sterg before you can order payment here, every oppyt of writing to London will be at an end, therefore I shou'd be much obliged to you if you wou'd remitt a bill for that sum to Mr Norton & Sons. The Convention now sitting have determined to stop all Exports of Provision & Grain after the 5th day of next Month the reason of this sudden stoppage is owing to some of our Scotch Enemys who under the Cloak of clearing for the West Indies have supply'd [Thomas] Gage with provision. Our troubles increase here daily, I wish you much happiness in your married state & shall be glad to hear from you, by the return of Mr Archer. I begin to be a little uneasy about Lilly I have never heard from him since he left York which is near 10 weeks he was to go to your Island. I am [&c.]

1. William Reynolds Letter Book, LC.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1775

Williamsburg, July 28.

In consequence of information, that a sum of money, to the amount of 900 £ and upwards, had been carried off from the custom-house at Hampton, by some man of war's people, a party of the volunteers now in this city went and secured what publick money was in the receiver and auditor-general's offices, amounting to about 300 £ also about 1000 £ from the naval-office of the upper district of James river, and 300 £ 14 s. post-office money.

Detachments are likewise sent out to secure all monies in the hands of publick officers throughout the colony, for fear of its falling into the hands of our enemies.

Lord Dunmore's head-quarters are at present in the neighbourhood of Portsmouth, from whence he frequently makes friendly excursions over to Norfolk; and has now, we hear, got over all his [ill-grounded] ¹ fears of being assassinated. But his Lordship and capt. [John] Macartney, of the king's ship *Mercury*, are upon very indifferent terms, we are informed, and have lately had some smart altercation.

1. Brackets by the printer.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775 [Port Royal harbor]

July 28 It continued to blow hard with rain. We got through Port Royal Creek, and came to at the town; and landed our stores, in order to clean.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

29 July

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Saturday, July 29, 1775

Ordered, That a Message be sent to the honourable Board desiring the Board to send down the Petition from Deer-Island, the Petition from St. George's, and the Letter from the Rev. Mr. [John] Murray, relative to the distressing situation of the Eastern parts of the Colony.

Samuel Holten, Esq. brought them down accordingly.

Ordered, That Dr. Church, Colonel Orne, and Captain Batchelder, be a Committee to consider the Account of Richard Derby, Esq.

Ordered, That Captain John Derby's Account be committed to the Committee last mentioned.

The Committee on the Petition from Machias reported that the same lie on the table until an application be made from the Committee at Machias.

Afternoon

The Committee appointed to consider a Message from the honourable Board reported. Read and accepted.

Resolved, That Dr. Church, Mr. Woodbridge, and Mr. Sewall with such as the honourable Board shall join, be a Committee to wait on his Excellency General Washington and inform him of the distressed situation of the inhabitants of the Eastern parts of this Colony, and know of him if he can, consistent with his instructions and the general service, order a detachment there, to prevent the enemy from ravaging the country, and plundering the inhabitants of their cattle, sheep, wood, &c., to supply themselves.

In Council, July 29, 1775: Read and concurred, and James Otis and William Sever, Esqrs. are joined.

The Committee attended the service, and reported, verbally, that his Excellency General Washington gave them for answer, that it was the expectation of the [Continental] Congress that each Colony should defend their own sea coast at their own proper expence.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 289-292, from Mass. Arch.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE
BRITISH ADMIRALTY ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 29 July 1775

His Majesty's Ship *Scorpion* commanded by Lieut. [John] Tollemache arrived last Night from Charles Town. In his way hither Mr Tollemache by

desire of Lord William Campbell touched at Cape Fear for Governor Martin's Dispatches.

I transmit Copies of [letters] I have received from the Governors of South and North Carolina to shew their Lordships how pressing they are for an additional number of ships and small Vessels to be stationed within their Governments. I inclose the Copy of a Letter from Sir James Wright Governor of Georgia. It gives me much satisfaction that as his Majesty's Service would not admit of my sending a Sloop to Savannah according to their Lordships Orders, the Kings Affairs in the Colony of Georgia have not suffered thereby.²

I shall be inexpressibly happy to have the Honor of their Lordship's particular Commands respecting the Rebellion on this Continent, and shall exert my utmost Endeavours to carry them into Execution in the best manner for his Majesty's Service, and to their Lordship's satisfaction.

In regard to the Application of his Majesty's Governors along the Continent, for Ships and Vessels of War, their Lordships I trust are fully apprized that it is entirely out of my power to comply with any part of their Requests, until Reinforcements arrive from England, and I am instructed concerning the measures Great Britain intends to pursue in consequence of the Revolt of her Colonies on this Continent.

Captains [Edward] Thornbrough and [Francis] Parry repeat their Representations, the former of the very bad condition the *Tamer* is in; and the latter that the *Cruizer* is in want of all kinds of Stores. I am satisfied they ought to be relieved, but at present I prefer their remaining a little longer, even as they are, rather than to leave the Coast totally without a Ship of War, assuring myself I shall very soon be enabled to send others in their Room.

The Store Ship from England was not arrived at Halifax the 13th instant.

The *Falcon* anchored at Nantasket last Night from a Cruize, and this morning I have ordered Captain [John] Linzee to convoy the *Russia Merchant* Transport (bound to England) twenty Leagues to the Eastward of Cape Cod. Lieut. Col. James of Artillery goes Passenger in this Transport and is charged with my Dispatches. I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 161-163, MassHS Transcript.

2. The letter, purporting to come from Sir James Wright, was the counterfeit one prepared by the South Carolina Committee of Safety, and dated June 27, 1775.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA ¹

Sir

Boston 29th July 1775

I have received your letter of the 26th June, and observe the proper care you have taken to keep the Province under your Command of use to Government; I should Imagine if you could imbody your Militia and have leave from home to pay them while upon Duty, the Province would be entirely secured. Several Officers will be sent to recruit to Newfoundland, who are ordered to send their Men to Halifax to be joined by those raised in your Province which I hope will amount to some considerable reinforcement to you.

The Admiral will soon send a ship to Quebec and I should be very glad at the same time to send in her 20 or 30 Ship Carpenters and as many Seamen.

It is not in my power to get them here, therefore I beg the favor of you, to procure them for me and to agree with them on the best terms you can, sending a careful person with them, with their Names and agreement to General [Guy] Carleton, and tell him it is by my desire you do it, the Ship will call in her way to Quebec for them —

The News from Quebec, we have heard and I hope the Admiral will Correct the Insolence of those Pirates —

I am with great Regard and Esteem Sr [&c.]

Thos Gage

1. Nova Scotia Papers, DAC.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Scorpion*, JOHN TOLLEMACHE,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 Moor'd in Boston Harbr Castle William SE $\frac{1}{2}$ S Long
Saturday 29 Wharfe WNW

latter part mode & fair. at 5 A M Saluted Adml [Samuel] Graves
with 13 Guns, Moor'd Ship with the Stream Anchor to the
Soward . . . at 10 Punish'd Jas. Ryan for Drunkeness First part
Fresh Gales and Clear

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND, TO CAPTAINS JOHN
PAIN AND JOHN SANDS ¹

Gentlemen

Providence, July 29, 1775

We have authentick Intelligence that 2 Men of War and 11 Transports sailed from Boston the Beginning of this Week; and we have the highest Reason to think that they are intended to take Cattle Sheep &c from the several Islands and very probably from yours in Order to supply the Enemy in Boston where they already suffer greatly for Want of fresh Provisions. As it is of great Consequence to prevent their being supplied I recommend to you to procure the Town to be called together immediately to consult upon the proper Measures for Defence. I have sent you by this Opportunity 2 Quarter Casks of Powder together with some Lead and Flints to enable you to defend your own Property. And in Case you think an Aid of Men necessary let me know it forthwith & you may rely upon every Thing in my Power to afford you Assistance.

By Letters from Philadelphia we are assured that General [Guy] Carleton's Endeavours to prevail upon the French and Indians to take up Arms against us have proved ineffectual; as also have the Attempts made by the Tools of the Ministry to stir up the Indians upon the Frontiers of all the Colonies. I have the Pleasure also to inform you that the Colony of Georgia hath at length heartily joined the united Colonies & have chosen 5 Delegates to sit in General Congress who are expected daily at Philadelphia. The Inhabitants of Georgia have siezed 13,000 lb of Powder imported in Capt. [Richard] Maitland from England and supposed to be designed to supply the Indians

I am [&c.]

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 259, 260.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Swan*, JAMES AYSCOUGH, COMMANDING ¹

July 1775

New London Light House N W Distce 1 mile

Satdy 29th Saw a Brigg to the S E Comr. made the Signal to Chace Do made Sail set Steering Sails came up with the Chace fired a Gun Shotted and Brought her too found her to be from Hispaniola Bound to Rhode Island Put a Petty Officer on Board with two Men to see her Inn. In Company with His Majestys Ship *Rose* and *King Fisher*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/960.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 29 [1775]

The Gentlemen of this Committee who went to View the River with some of the Committee of Gloucester County, Report :

That the Committee of said County were entirely satisfied with the propriety of fixing the frames opposite the upper end of Hog Island, in preference to Billingsport.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 294.

JOHN ADAMS TO JOSIAH QUINCY ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia, July 29, 1775

We jointly lament the loss of a Quincy and a Warren, two characters as great in proportion to their age, as any I have known in America . . . ²

I have a great opinion of your knowledge and judgement from long experience, concerning the channels and islands in Boston harbour; but I confess your opinion that the harbour might be blocked up, and seamen and soldiers made prisoners at discretion, was too bold and enterprising for me, who am not very apt to startle at a daring proposal; but I believe I may safely promise you powder enough, in a little time, for any purpose whatever . . .

I hope, Sir, we shall never see a total stagnation of commerce for any length of time. Necessity will force open our ports; trade, if I mistake not, will be more free than usual. Your friend, Dr. [Benjamin] Franklin, to whom I read your letter, and who desires his kind compliments to you, has been employed in directing the construction of row-gallies for this City. The Committee of Safety for this Province have ordered twenty of them to be built; ³ some of them are finished. I have seen one of them; it has twelve oars on each side. They rowed up the river the first time, four miles in an hour against a tide which ran down four miles an hour. The Congress have recommended to the Colonies to make provision for the defence of their navigation, in their harbours, rivers, and on their sea coasts.⁴ Of a floating battery I have no idea – am glad you are contriving one.

1. John Adams, *The Works of John Adams*, IX, 360. 361. Hereafter cited as Adams, *John Adams*.

2. See Quincy's letter to Adams of July 11, 1775.

3. The Committee of Safety ordered twelve galleys; not twenty. Thirteen were finally built.

4. Resolution of Tuesday, July 18, 1775.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED 29TH JULY, 1775”¹

I have a Letter from London, dated May 31, (by the Ship *Rebecca*, Capt. [John] Hazelwood, who sailed the first June) says, “You will find by the Papers, that we have received an Account from Salem, of the Defeat of Col. [Francis] Smith, and the precipitate Retreat of Lord [Hugh] Percy. – This Intelligence, so contrary to the Expectation of Government, who had daily announced the Americans Cowards, has panic struck Administration, and their Tory dependents, and has established the *Spirits* of the Sons of America, in this Metropolis, and the Friends to Freedom, in the most exalted Manner. It is impossible to describe the Shame and Vexation which are visible in the Countenances of North and his tyrannical Abettors; they are constrained to acknowledge the Regulars were the Aggressors, and equally forced to admit the Intrepidity of the Americans: But what alarms them most, they expect every Hour to hear General [Thomas] Gage’s Army is cut off, or meanly sheltering themselves in the Castle, or on board the Men of War. In the mean Time Stocks here have a Shock, and the People denounce Vengeance against [Lords John Stuart] Bute, [William Murray] Mansfield, [Frederick] North, [John Montagu] Sandwich, and their ignominious Adherents; I impatiently wait the next Intelligence.”

1. *New York Gazette*, August 7, 1775.

“COPY OF A LETTER TO MR. [PHILIP] STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY, DATED AT PHILADELPHIA THE 29TH OF JULY 1775”¹

[Extract]

. . . they continue building Row Boats some of them I have seen whose dimensions are 64 feet in length & 14 beam, they have order’d 52, of which there are several now afloat with one 24 pounder in the Stern Sheets, Swivels on the Sides & Musquets for the Rowers; when a competent number is compleated they intend making an Attack on His Majts sloop *Nautilus* which arrived in this River last week, of this Intention I apprised Capt [George] Vandeput of the *Asia* by Letter of this date, & one Doctr Drommond of the Customs found means to give Capt [John] Collins timely Intelligence . . . Some 14 Tons of Gunpowder have been landed in this River, & this morning I have seen it sent away in six Waggons (escorted by two Companies of Light Infantry) to the Rebel Army before Boston.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, 14b, LC Transcript.

GEORGE GILMER TO THOMAS JEFFERSON, A VIRGINIA DELEGATE IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Extract]

[Waller’s Grove, Virginia July 29, 1775]

It appears astonishing to me that some armed Vessel has not attempted to bring in powder &c. It certainly is practicable and wants proper encouragement only to put it in execution in order some of those Privateers to all the islands, to Holland, Spain give them positive instructions to bring powder, a high premium must ensue . . . I began to think we should have a campaign without action, but proposed laying hands on all his Majestie’s money immediately, which proposal was readily agreed to, in which the officers waited on the proper officers –

in some Cases swore the officer most solemnly not to disburse what might be on hand, on pain of Confiscation of their whole Estate and being treated as a Traitor to the Cause. Unhappily that this, tho' all along necessary, should have been spared till almost all the money was shipped to Boston by order of the Board there; 1200 Dollars went from Jaquelin Ambler this month; large sums from other Collectors in bills &c. We collected £900 from L. Burwell; have sent detachments to wait on Corbin, &c., with positive orders for him to deliver up all his Majistie's Cash or bind his whole estate as security for his not disbursing, remitting or otherwise using one Copper, and on refusing to comply he is ordered to appear in our encampment, We have sent an Express to the Convention to sanctify our proceedings.

1. Gilmer Collection, VHS. The date approximated through other documents.

"COPY OF A LETTER FROM ROBERT SHEDDON TO JOHN GOODRICH DATED PORTSMOUTH [VIRGINIA] SUNDAY 8 O'CLOCK [29 JULY, 1775]"¹

Sir Johnie came up yesterday, and Set off about 2 O'Clock this Morning for Nansemond — ^a T. Hs. Boat could not find the way in, and got safe up here — Johnie hired a Vessel, which would Sail this day — Morris would be in time to prevent any other Vessel, returning except the *long Splice* with Salt from Turks Island, which is much wanted — Johnie has placed Several Boats for to look out ² — I have not heard from Nansemond Since Billie ³ went up, but no doubt the business is done — J. Webb set of[f] to Secure the papers &c and to push the Sloop out — The ^b F. must now be at Sea 10 or 11 Days — Bartlates Letters is not yet come to hand ⁴ — The Sloop Sailed this day fortnight and has a considerable Value in Course Linens a Board which Billie seemed resolute to have Secured, I beg't him to get ^c W. Cr to undertake it and not be seen himself in ^d S—— as it might be a Means of discovering what Course to Stear — receive your Shirt &c by Jupiter who goes to Conduct Greenock and Luckie — I wish you may be so luckie as to get a Sight of the F—— to Secure her and the letters a Shore to dessapoint the many Malicious Enemy's you have, who have made themselves bussie for your destruction — Every thing remains quite here at present, take care of yourself which is the only uneasiness we have now.—

I am Sir [&c.]

Robert Sheddon

a. Thos Harbarts Boat

c. Willis Cooper

b. The *Fanny* coming from St Eustatia

d. Suffolk

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/1353, 699–701, LC Transcript.

2. Probably John Goodrich, Jr.

3. William Goodrich.

4. Bartlett Goodrich.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING¹

Saturday 29

Elizabeth River [Virginia]

July 1775

A M sent the Mate & 11 Men on board the *Arundel* Schooner to go on particular service under the direction of his Excellency Lord Dunmore

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, JULY 29, 1775

Williamsburg, July 29.

Information having been received, that a man of war's people carried off a sum of money from the custom-house at Hampton, amounting to upwards of 900 £. a party of volunteers in this city went and secured the following sums of public money, viz. 350 £. in the Receiver and Auditor General's offices; 314 £. 14 s. post office money and about 1000 £. in the naval-office of the upper district of James river.

DANIEL DESAUSSURE TO HENRY LAURENS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Sir

Beaufort 29th July 1775

I Received your favour P the Express Adinger and in Compliance with your order, I delivered the Letter to Capt [Clement] Lampriere (who arrived here yesterday) he is busied in getting the Vessel Ready, which prevents his writing, but he has Requested me to acquaint you that he will Comply with the order you sent him – and hopes to get away tomorrow: – I shall dispatch the Letter for Savannah today, and Inclose it to Joseph Clay & Joseph Habersham Esqrs in case one should be absent, the other may deliver it without Loss of time I beg leave to assure you that I shall be particularly pleased whenever the Council of Safety shall lay their Commands on me for the Countrys Service & shall endeavour to execute them the best in my power.

I am much obliged to you for the Information of the arrivals from Urope. I am with Esteem Sir [&c.]

D. DeSaussure

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, I, 67, 68.

LORD WILLIAM CAMPBELL, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO
GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

[Extract]

Charles Town 29th July 1775

Sir – I did myself the honor of writing to Your Excellency by Capt [John] Tollemache, when I mention'd the very deplorable State in which I found this Province. Since the departure of the *Scorpion* they have proceeded to fresh Acts of Violence, & all legal Government is now at an end. Georgia has also been persuaded to join the other Provinces, owing in a great measure to the power, & influence of the people here, & the defenceless state in which it is left; so that it is a matter of doubt to me, whither Sir Jas Wright, Governor [Josiah] Martin, or myself, is in the worst situation, as our Provinces are in the same state, & we seem equally abandon'd by the whole world. We have recd Acts for restraining Trade, but as we cannot enforce them they are just so much waste paper. – The only Sloop of War ² we have here I must be under a necessity of sending out with the Packet for England, to see her safely clear of the Coast, as there are two Armed Vessels one of them fitted out in this Harbour now waiting to seize the Mail with my Dispatches to Government.

I very sincerely congratulate Your Excellency on the Success of His Majys Troops on Bunkers Hill which I am just informed of by Mr Logie, I wish your Excellency had enabled me to publish a particular Account of that affair, as the

infamous falsehoods which are circulated with great industry over this part of the Continent does more mischief than I can express. Lady William joins me in best wishes to Your Excellency & Mrs Gage. I have the Honor to be with much regard, Sir, [&c.]

William Campbell

N.B. Many of the Inhabitants of the back part of this Country are well inclined to Government, & would I am convinced step out on the present Occasion, had they encouragement & support; but I have the mortification of seeing myself unable even to protect my own family from insult. . . .

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. H.M. Sloop *Tamer*, Captain Edward Thornbrough.

CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir *Tamer*, Rebellion Road [South Carolina] 29 July 1775

I received yours of May 21st sent me by Captain [George] Montagu and your Orders and Acts of Parliament by Mr Logie, and am sorry to acquaint you that this place is now in an actual State of Rebellion; they are forming three Regiments and have made one Million pounds of Paper money to pay them with, and have compelled all the Inhabitants to sign an Association; the Friends to the King have been obliged to sign it by their threatening them with Tar and Feathers, and then oblige them to leave the Province. The Committee have the last Week summoned all the King's Officers not excepting the Governors private Secretary to appear before them, which they have done, but the result is not yet transpired but it is supposed they will be ordered to leave the Province in such a Number of Days as they shall direct. The *Sandwich* Packet arrived from England the 2d. inst and as soon as the Mail was delivered at the Post Office, the Committee came and seized all Government Letters for the different Governors of the Southern Provinces, Kept them till the next day and after reading them sent them back; two days after they intercepted the Georgia Mail. On the 27 instant the *Eagle* Packet arrived but I sent my Boat to the Bar and secured the Mail, when the Governor and Post master came on board the *Tamer* at 12 o'Clock at Night to open it to secure the Government Dispatches. I have the Mail intended for England on board and by the Governors desire am going to Sea with the *Sandwich* Packet to see her ten leagues from the Coast and then deliver it to her, and return into Port as soon as possible again. I inclosed you the State and Condition of his Majesty's Sloop under my Command by Captain [John] Tollemache giving you an Account of her Defects, her Sheathing is dropping off forward and as the Worms bite so much am fearful that her Plank will be soon eat thro' as my Anchor Stocks are all eat to a honey Comb, and a foot of the Ends dropped off although it is not a month since summoned last. The 12th Inst the *Penscola* Paquet run aboard me and carried away the fore yard but have purchased another unknown to the Committee which I am to give Bills on the Navy Board for. As to my Sails I have but one suit that can be depended on, most other Stores I am short of, as when I came from Halifax they would not supply me, the builder saying I must be

sent home to be repaired. I here inclose the State and Condition of his Majesty's Sloop under my Command and am Sir &c.

Edw^d Thornborough

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 466-468, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775 [Port Royal harbor]

July 29 We hauled on shore, and cleaned; and in the evening hauled her off again.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

30 July (Sunday)

COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE AND INSPECTION OF BRISTOL TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

Bristol July 30th 1775

To your Hounours the Counsel and house of Representatives for the provance of the Masschutes Bay in New ingland

Gentlemen. We of the Committee of the Town of Bristol in the County of Lincoln have taken into Care the Sloop *Sally* belonging to Mrss Isaac and John Winslows of Boston Comanded by Andrew Johnston the afore said sloop is Now halled up and secured by us at a place Called Meduncook those Winslows according to our Nearest inspection is found to be an Enemys to the Rights of Amarice therefore we beg your Hounours instructions how we shall Prosceed – So Remain [&c.]

William Martin William m^cClain
Committee of Correspondence Inspection

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 116.

J. P-KE TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, H.M.S. *Rose*, NEWPORT ¹

Sir, Though I have not the misfortune of personally knowing you, yet I am perfectly acquainted with your character, which is obnoxious to common fame. Were you actuated in your present proceedings from principles misinformed, it would be the duty of every discerning man to point out your error, and rectify your mistake – but when frequent remonstrances are of no effect and repeated acts of violence mark with infamy your conduct, I am induced to think you are actuated by no principle but the love of rapine. Your late insolent reply to Governor [Nicholas] Cooke's letter proves at once your ignorance, pride and contempt of all laws; and convinces every man, that you are a person capable of the worst of purposes, and ready for any dirty service, that your despotic masters, the British ministry, are pleased to impose on you. At the same time, while you are bestowing the epithets of *rebel* and *traitor* upon the good people of these colonies, you are acting the hardy pirate under *royal colours*. Can any thing be more inconsistent for a monarch, who reigns only for the happiness of his people, to send out his hireling servants to rob and pillage the substance of the most deserving of his subjects; whose only crime (if I may use the term) is an enthusiastic regard to the common rights of mankind in general, and the original British constitution in particular! But I fear I condescend too much, to reason with you, Sir, who

have no ideas of your own, and at best are but a living machine in the hand of power, notwithstanding your many acts of villany – In some small degree, I think you are pardonable, when we consider that your understanding naturally confined, is blinded by avarice and a love of self, which destroys every other consideration, and render you incapable of judging between right and wrong. The rule of your conduct is implicitly to obey the commands of your masters, be they ever so arbitrary and unjust. Follow, therefore, the bent of your own inclinations, and enrich yourself by the plunder of those, to whose independent souls you must appear an object truly contemptible. Your reign will soon have a period, an infamous period; your floating prisons will no longer be an asylum to screen you from the vengeance of an injured, insulted people, whose armies now encircle your miserable handful of hireling troops within the town of Boston, and will in process of time cleanse our seas of those pilfering nests of royal pirates, that now infest our shores and disturb our tranquillity. Remember the fate of the *Gaspee* schooner, and tremble for your safety; for those same people who devoted her to destruction, at the hazard of their lives, will again, when urged by repeated oppressions and aggravated insults, drag you like a felon from your armed den, devoted to the most exemplary punishment, though not adequate to your crimes. I would remonstrate with you like a friend on the infamy of your proceedings and endeavour to reclaim you to honesty (if you ever was possessed of it) by government. – But I believe you to be a wretch incapable of reason, in whose callous breast one sentiment of honour or humanity never entered.

I would willingly entertain a better opinion of those two gentlemen who are employed in the same infamous service. Captain [James] Ayscough appears to be a man of moderation, from which I would infer, that he may be a person endowed with some good qualities, if not corrupted by your bad examples. But as they are companions of yours, there is little room left to doubt their approbation of your conduct. Candour itself cannot screen them from the imputation of your guilt; and, like the honest countryman, they may be hanged for associating with thieves. It would be a folly next to infatuation to attempt to argue the point, upon the English constitution, or the natural rights derived from that constitution, &c. guarantied to us by charters indefeasible, or to prostitute the divine powers of the soul to the investigation of your niggard understanding. Besides, I would not even now condescend to notice you, if it was not for the same reason that we punish an assassin *to prevent his future indeterminate attacks*. Not to detain you, Sir, I would recommend a speedy reformation to you, to restore the effects you have stolen from the inhabitants of Newport and Providence, and to reimburse the Colonies for all the robberies and depredations you have feloniously committed upon them, together with your smock faced colleague, who I hear has heartily coincided with your measures; I say, I would recommend those steps to you, not from a conviction of justice, for I believe your conscience is already seared against reflexion – but, from the same motive that actuates a common thief, I mean the fear of punishment, which will undoubtedly overtake you in the end, though perhaps not so soon, as every honest American wishes, or your deserts require.

J. P—KE, Volunteer in the American Army

Camp at Cambridge, July 30, 1775.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, Supplement, August 24, 1775.

NARRATIVE OF MIDSHIPMAN CHRISTOPHER HELE, R.N.¹

The Midshipman's Account. 30 July 1775

On the 30 July Lieutt Colthurst and myself having remained up till day light and the Marines the whole time under Arms, and Centinels placed at different parts of the Island, thought we might with safety rest a few hours, but to our great surprize about half past Gun firing in the Morning was by the Sergeant alarmed saying "the Whale Boats are coming" Lieutt. Colthurst and myself having laid down in our Cloaths repaired with the greatest Expedition to the Guard Room and ordered the Marines immediately to the Place where we imagined the Rebels intended to Land, who we found within Pistol Shot of the Rocks to the Number of 33 boats each Boat containing about 13 men. The Marines were drawn up, tho' not without great Confusion, perceiving many of them in liquor and totally unfit for Service; Notwithstanding I will venture to affirm every precaution was used to prevent it by frequently examining them and cautioning the Carpenters against bringing Liquor on pain of their being sent Prisoners to Boston, tho' I am of opinion it could be conveyed to them by no other means. Several of the Marines were perceived to be in Liquor in the Night and two Centinels relieved and confined for that fault. The Marines without Orders fired a number of Musquets at the Boats, then laying on their Oars; Lieutt Colthurst then advised with me what was most proper to be done observing there was a much greater force than was possible for us to defeat, I replied as the Whale Boats were laying on their Oars and appearing to consult how they should act; by continuing the fire they might probably retreat, which Words I had scarcely uttered when the Rebels cheered divided and proceeded to land on different parts of the Island. Lieutt Colthurst was then of opinion that by retreating to the House we might defend ourselves till assistance came from the Ships but recalled his Proposals giving for reason that as the House was defended within only the Rebels would set it on fire which if I may presume to give [my opinion] was highly probable, as the Rebels after getting within a few Yards of it would have received no hurt from our fire it being impossible to bring any Musquets to bear on them, and there being many Openings in the lower part of the House which they might with great Ease have set fire to. He therefore judged it expedient for us all to retreat on board a Schooner than laying in the Mole afloat; which finding him resolved on doing and many of the Rebels being landed[,] with his Approbation I told him I would repair to the long Boat which lay at a small distance from the Mole and use my Endeavours to cover the Marines in the Embarking; which he consented to I proceeded to the Wharf jumped overboard and waded to a Canoe by which means gained the long Boat, got under weigh and used my Endeavours to cover their Retreat. The Schooner in easting grounded which being observed by the Rebels, who having set the Houses on fire, immediately boarded and took them all Prisoners. As I could be of no further Assistance I judged it necessary for the safety of the Men and Boat, the Whale Boats then pursuing me, to retreat towards the *Lively*, which I could not effect without difficulty being obliged to turn against Tide. I cannot pretend to say what Number of Men were Killed or wounded, nor did I see any fall except Mr. Coulthurst on the Wharf getting his men on board the Schooner. Neither can

I pretend to say what part of the Pilot and Carpenters took as Mr Coulthurst gave Orders to the Centinel at the House that if we should be attacked not to suffer any of them to come out, nor did I see any of them out except one who escaped with me in the Long boat. Centinels to the Number of seven were placed every Night and all the rest of the Men accouter'd in the Guard Room.

Christopher Hele

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 468-470, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Scorpion*, JOHN TOLLEMACHE,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 Moored in Boston Harbr; Castle William SE $\frac{1}{2}$ S Long
Sunday 30 Wharfe WNW
middle Mode & latter [part] fresh breezes & fair sent on shore the
Empty Water Casks Recd. Water Watering, at 8 sent a Boat with a
party of Men, Man'd & Arm'd on a Secret Expedition.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*" ¹

July 1775 [In Narragansett Bay]
Sunday 30 10 A M weighed and came to Sail at 2 P M Steering up Naraganset
passage, saw 3 Rebel Privateers Sloops set Steering Sails and gave
Chace at 4 run on Shore on the middle bank, the No end of patience
carried out the Stream Anchor and Cable at 5 hove the ship in
heaving off parted the stream Cable about 40 fm from the Anchor,
at 8 came to, in 6 fm Muddy bottom Hogg Island S E B E.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Liberty* ¹

Crown Point Sunday July the 30th Anno 1775 weighd Anchor & proceeded
down the Lake Champlain at 4.P.M. saw a Boat under Sail, brought her to by
the fire of a Gun, which proved to be Esqr Gillilands Boat; on Board of the Boat
I found a Man that came from St Johns with a Pass to pass & repass up and down
the lake from Major [Charles] Preston Commander in Chief at St Johns & by
Mr. Gillilands Information found there was another Man on shore that had a
Pass from General [Guy] Carleton & by an Express was sent to St Johns as a
Cooper in his Majesty's Service. By examining them asunder I found their
Stories to disagree so much that I sent them to Your Honor to examine. John
Shatford says there is but 8 or ten Guns at St Johns; the other says seventy or
Eighty, the former says they are haul'd by his own Door. Esqr Gilliland desired
me to take particular Care of the latter viz. John Duguid as he said he was not sure
but he was a Tory, I kept him on Board all Night, at 7.A.M. I sent them to
Crown Point under Guard of three Men, Immediately weighed Anchor &
proceeded to wards the Isle of Mott

1. Papers CC, 153, I, NA.

"COPY OF A LETTER TO MR [PHILIP] STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE
ADMIRALTY DATED AT PHILADELPHIA JULY 30, 1775"¹

[Extract]

. . . this Morning a Party of Light Infantry went to a place called Darby within 8 Miles of this Town & about 10 oClock brought 5 Tons of Gunpowder which was landed down the River out of a Pilot Boat that came from Eustacia, twenty more are there taking in Powder it now has become a brisk Trade the Congress give great encouragement to any that will run the risque . . . I fear I shall not be able to send any Intelligence in future as all the Ports of America is to be shut by order of Congress & Trade stop'd at or upon the first of Septemr next, yet they have invited the French, Dutch & Danes, inhabiting the West Indies, to send the Produce of their Islands in their own Bottoms, & they should have the produce of this Country in Barter, at same time desire they may have Convoys from their respective Nations, this is looked on as a Noble Scheme to engage England in a War. — What I have wrote & my Intention is to shew their Lordships that a Sloop of War is not sufficient to prevent the Smuggling of Warlike Stores into this River, it is very long & has many Creeks where those Pilot Boats go into & discharge their Cargoes of Gunpowder, if their Lordships pleased to order two or three Cruizers off the Capes of Virginia Delawar & to the Soward of Long Island, I make no doubt but many of these small Vessels may be taken. — A Schooner came in here a few days ago which brought Powder stowed under Molasses, when she came up she hoisted French Jack, Ensign & Pendant, I have lived here these five years past & never saw so many French Men in the time as are here now . . . Two 40 Gun Ships to come up to this Town would oblige them to supply Provisions for the use of the Army & Navy at Boston.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, 14b, LC Transcript.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce*
BY CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER¹

1775 [Port Royal harbor]

July 30 Took on board our stores, and got ready to sail; fell down the river a little.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

31 July

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH¹

[Extract]

Halifax July 31st 1775.

My Lord, In my letter No 41 of the 27 June last, I acquainted your Lordship, That the people at Mechias, a place about twenty Miles West of this Province, had taken Arms and Attack'd, and Seizd one of the Armd Schooners, inclosed you have a deposition of a person, who was present, and gives an Account of their fitting out a Sloop to cruise for the Vessels bound from this Province, with a supply of Caule and Hay for the Troops at Boston.² by a person belonging to this Province, who has been since there, I am informd, That the provincial congress of the Massachusetts have empowerd the People of Mechias, and others

in the Neighbour, whose Numbers are about seven or eight hundred to Act against His Majestys Troops, and a Vessel in Consequence thereof has Sailed, he further informs me they were making inquiry about the Strength of the Forts at Annapolis and St Johns River, from whence I conjecturd they were meditating a design against this Province; I must beg leave to lay before your Lordship, the State of that part of the Province, to whom the Mechias people are near borderers, Our Inhabitants of Passamaquody and St Johns River, are wholly from New England, as are the greatest part of the Inhabitants of Annapolis River, and those of the Townships of Cornwallis, Horton, Falmouth, and Newport, some of which are not Forty Miles from this Town. That by reason of their connections with the people of New England little or no dependance can be plac'd on the Militia there, to make any Resistance against them, That many in this Town are disaffected, and whom likewise I can have no great dependance That should such an Attempt be made I should dread the Consequence, to convince your Lordship how alarming our Situation, is it was no sooner known that a Quantity of Hay was purchas'd, for the Horse in Boston than a Stack of eight or Ten Tons which happend to be in an open Field, was maliciously set on Fire and destroy'd, That, since that, the Buildings in the Navy Yard have been set on Fire, but timely discoverd and extinguish'd; and from the place it happen'd at, where no fire is ever carried, and near the magazine of Powder, it is certain, without all doubt a malicious design to destroy that Yard, the Perpetrators have not yet been discover'd.

The Exigencies at present have requird almost all the Kings Troops from hence, there remains here only thirty six Effective Men, as p the Return inclos'd; I have order'd these to do duty near the magazine for its protection, and at the Ordnance Store, not leaving myself a Centry, I have also order'd about thirty of the Militia to do duty at Night, and Patrole all the Streets. I have issued my Proclamations empowering the Magistrates throughout the Province, to preserve Peace and good order, to take Care that all persons coming into this Province, should be carefully examin'd, and cause them to take the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, and to Apprehend any person who shall be otherwise than Loyally Affected, or shall endeavour to Stir up, or make any disturbance.

I beg leave further to observe to your Lordship, That the Colonies are to a Man prepossess'd with great prejudice against this Province, they will not permit a Vessel to Sail from the Continent with any Kind of Provisions for our Relief, which will Straiten us beyond the hopes of redress, unless we can get a Supply from Quebec, it is only Bread [and] Corn that will be wanting The Country and Seas will produce other Food sufficient. . . .

I have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect [&c.]

Fran^s Legge

1. Nova Scotia Papers, DAC.

2. See Deposition of Thomas Flinn, July 10, 1775.

SAMUEL BAYLEY AND MOSES BROWN TO CAPTAIN MICHAEL CORBITT ¹

Sir

Newbury Port July 31, 1775

You being Master of Our Brig *Unity* and all Things necessary for Sea being on Board Our Orders are that you proceed with the first fair Wind from hence to

Sea, and make the most prudent Dispatch to some English Island in the West Indies and at such Port or Ports in any of them as you judge best sell your Cargoe on Board after which equip your Vessel for the Force Trade and taking your Cash and any other Things you judge may answer best proceed to Porto Rico or some other Spanish Place & there invest the neat Proceeds of your whole in such Articles as answer at the Curacoa Market or in Holland, to either of which Places you are to go and there dispose of your Cargoe you may have thus procured. If at Curacoa you are to take your Cash and go to some English Island and clear out in Ballast for home as no Produce can be bro't agreeable to [Continental] Association – If you go to Holland and there sell your Wood and other Things you get at Porto Rico you are to endeavour a Freight to England or otherwise proceed to London, in Ballast – Where your Vessell is to be absolutely sold unless Matters are accomodated – You are to apply to Messrs. Champion, Dickason & Co. on your Arrival for Advice, & proceed accordingly. – But should there be no Prospect of improving your Money in the forced Trade, which is our Design in the Voyage, you are to endeavour to secure a Freight to any Port of Europe, remitting your Cash to the abovesaid House in London for our Account as well as your Freight Money, reserving enough to buy you a Load of Salt with which go to N F Land and there sell the Vessell, making the best of your Way home, & paying your People off – But if you can do neither of these Things you are to remit your Money as aforesaid & proceed home in Ballast Your Signals when you return to be Blue Burgee under your Jack at F T Q M Head & Ensign under your Pendant at M T Q. Mast head – Keep us advised pr. all Opportunities – Avoid speaking any Vessels as you may loose some of your Hands. For your Encouragement We agree to allow you Three Pounds six shillings & 8d p Month – The Priviledge of Eight Hogsheads out Freight free – Three pr Cent on the Sales of your Cargoe & 3 pr Cent on any Remittance except Cash – Also customary Priviledges & Commissions on the Forced Trade or Freight.

Samuel Bayley

Moses Brown

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 208, 271. These orders, as was subsequently disclosed, were sham ones.

JOHN CALEF TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

To the Honourable General Assembly for the Colony of Massachusetts Bay now sitting at Watertown July 1775

The Memorial of John Calef, of Ipswich in sd Colony Shews

That your Memorialist hath built a Ship which he designs for the West Indies, and may be ready to Sail in a few days; But the troubles in which this country is involved are such as forbid your Memorialist sending away the Ship without permission from this Court, Your Memorialist begs leave to inform your Honors the said Ship now lyes at Danvers exposed to the Season & lyable to many Casualtys where she now is likewise that he is at great expence in supporting the Officers of the Ship in wages and Provisions.

Therefore your Memorialist humbly Pray this Honble Court will grant him leave to send said Ship to Penobscott to lade with Lumber, & proceed from thence to West Indies

Your Memorialist will bind himself with Sufficient Surety that said Ship shall return from the West Indies to this Colony so soon as she can have her outstanding Cargo Sold, & relade with Commodity for this Market, (the Danger of the Seas excepted) or that she shall return within proper time limited by this Court

And as in Duty bound shall pray

John Calef

[Endorsed] Mr Wheeler

Deacn Plympton Esqr Johnson

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180. Not entered in the House Journal.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Merlin*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM C. BURNABY,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 Cape Ann S S E 7 Leags

Monday 31 Fresh Breezes & Fair – Fired 10 Guns 10 swivels, and some small Arms at a Schooner which we took ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/604.

2. The schooner *Woodbridge*, John Williamson, master, with flour, bread, bran and corn, from Philadelphia for Newburyport. She was condemned and sold in Boston early in August, 1775. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

Sir:

Camp at Cambridge, July 31, 1775.

I have considered the Application made me yesterday from the General Court, with all the attention due to the Situation of the People, in whose behalf it is made, and the Respect due to such a Recommendation. Upon referring to my Instructions and Consulting with those Members of Congress who are Present, as well as the General Officers, they all agree that it would not be consistent with my Duty to detach any Part of the Army now here on any Particular Provincial Service. It has been debated in Congress and Settled, that the Militia, or other Internal Strength of each Province, is to be applied for Defence against those Small and Particular Depredations which were to be expected, and to which they were Supposed to be competent. This will appear the more Proper, when it is considered that every Town and, indeed, every Part of our Sea Coast, which is exposed to these Depredations, would have an equal claim upon this Army; It is the Misfortune of our Situation which exposes us to these Ravages, against which, in my Judgement, no such Temporary Relief would possibly secure us. The great advantage the Enemy has, of Transporting Troops, by being Master of the Sea, will enable them to harrass us by Diversions of this kinds; and should we be tempted to pursue them upon every Alarm; The Army must either be so weaken'd as to expose it to Destruction, or a great part of the Coast be still left unprotected. Nor, indeed, does it appear to me, that such a pursuit would be attended with the least Effect; The first Notice of such an Incursion would be its actual Execution; and long before any Troops could reach the Scene of Action, the Enemy would have an Opportunity to accomplish their purpose and retire. It would give me great pleasure to have it in my power, to extend Protection and Safety to every Individual; but the wisdom of the General Court will antici-

pate me in the necessity of conducting our Operations on a General and impartial Scale, so as to exclude any first cause of Complaint and Jealousy.

I beg, Sir, you will do me the Honor to Communicate these Sentiments to the General Court, and to apologize for my involuntary Delay. As we were alarm'd this Morning by the Enemy, and my Time taken up with giving the necessary Directions.

I shall be happy in every Opportunity of shewing my very great Respect and Regard for the General Court of Massachusetts Bay, and am, Sir,

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 379–381.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

Watertown, July 31, 1775

Jabez Fisher, Esq. brought down from the Board a Letter from his Excellency General Washington, purporting that it is not for the general interest of the Colonies that there should be a detachment from the Army sent to the Eastward.

Ordered, That a Message be sent to the honourable Board for the Petition from Deer-Island, and the Papers accompanying it.

Colonel Foster came down, and informed the House that the papers relative to Deer-Island were not before the Board.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 295, from Mass. Arch.

JAMES WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Watertown, July 31 1775

The hint you give of inviting all nations to trade with us is indeed a grand idea, and I can easily conceive how bitterly you regret the loss of it. Such a step would have been worthy of such a body. It would have been in the true stile of a Sully, and have produced mightily consequences. I can easily conceive also the narrow principles that operated against and finally destroyed them. The two questions you ask, to what articles the trade should extend, and what bottoms it should be carried on upon, require a nice determination. Perhaps it would not answer our immediate purposes so well by being confined to our own bottoms, but if it be not, and we should finally be detached from Britain, we might have some difficulty in making an alteration so advantageous to ourselves in gaining great wealth and naval power. I hope to hear you viva voce on this subject The most capital action was at the light house. You will recollect that we burnt it some time ago. They had for some time been very industrious in rebuilding it, and had it in such forwardness as actually to shew a light on Saturday night [July 29]. About twenty-five whale boats and two hundred men, commanded by Major [Benjamin] Tupper, set off last night, and arrived about daylight, attacked the guard and workmen, and one small tender soon carried it, after killing two or three, and wounding four or five more. They took all the rest, burnt and destroyed the light house, took thirty six prisoners, and all their arms. Among the prisoners are four Marshfield Tories, and three or four others. The

rest are marines and soldiers. One of the Whites of Marshfield is wounded, it is said mortally.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 95–99.

MEMOIRS OF MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH ¹

[Roxbury] 31st [July, 1775]

Major [Benjamin] Tupper, with 300 Americans, went to Light-House Island, attacked a British guard of 33 marines, killed a subaltern officer and several soldiers, took 23 prisoners, several refugees, and burnt all the buildings on the island, with the loss of one American soldier.

1. Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*.

PORTIA (ABIGAIL ADAMS) TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Braintree July 31 – 1775 ²

I have had a very Ill Night. Just recoverd from the rash, I went out yesterday to attend the funeral of a poor fellow who the Night before fell in Battle as they were returning from the Light house. (I catchd some cold.) A Sabbath Evening [July 30] there was a warm fire from Prospect Hill and Bunkers Hill, begun first by the Riffel men taking of[f] their Gaurds. 2 Men upon our side were kill'd, 5 of their guards were killd, 2 taken. I believe my account will be very confused, but I will relate it as well as I am able. A Sabbath Evening a number of Men in Whale Boats went of[f] from Squantom and Dorchester to the light house, where the General Gage had again fixd up a Lamp, and sent 12 carpenters to repair it. Our people went on amidst a hot fire from 30 Marines who were placed there as a guard to the tory carpenters, burnt the dwelling house, took the Torys and 28 Marines, kill'd the Leiunt. and one Man, brought of[f] all the oil and stores which were sent, without the looss of a man till they were upon their return when they were so closely persued that they were obliged to run one whale boat ashore and leave her to them. The rest arrived safe except the unhappy youth whose funeral I yesterday attended, who received a Ball thro the temples as he was rowing the boat. He belong'd to Road Island. His name was Griffin. He with 4 wounded Marines was brought by Capt. Turner to Germantown and buried from their with the Honours of War. Mr. Wibird ³ upon the occasion made the best oration (he never prays you know) I ever heard from him. The poor wounded fellow[s] (who are all wounded in their arms) desired they might attend. They did and he very pathetically addressd them; with which they appeared affected. I spoke with them. I told them it was very unhappy that they should be obliged to fight their best Friends. They said they were sorry – they hoped in God an end would be speedily put to the unhappy contest. When they came, they came in the way of their Duty to releave Admiral Montague – with no thoughts of fighting – but their situation was such as obliged them to obey orders, but they wish'd with all their souls they that sent them here had been in the heat of the Battle, express'd gratitude

at the kindness they received, said in that they had been deceived, for they were told if they were taken alive, they should be Sacrificed by us. Dr. Tufts Dress'd their wounds.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 270, 271.
2. Mrs. Adams began this letter on July 31 and continued on August 2. Extract is from portion written on latter date.
3. Reverend Anthony Wibird, Congregational minister at Braintree.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Lively*, CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 Moored in Nantasket Road
Monday 31 at 4 A M saw the Rebels Land at the Light House made the Signal for Assistance – Mann'd & Arm'd Our Boats came down the Boats from the Men of War & an Arm'd Sloop Drove the Rebels on Shore & took two of their Whale Boats [P M] Sailed the Sloop & Boats for Boston, came down and Anchd off the Light House His Majs Sloop *Scorpion*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

LIEUTENANT JOHN TOLLEMACHE, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir, *Scorpion* [off Boston Lighthouse] July 31, 1775

Conforming to your Orders I am anchored as near the Lighthouse as the Pilot thought safe; but I think it is what I owe the People under my command and also my Duty for the good of his Majesty's Service, to inform you the particular Situation of the Ship. I understand it is next to certain I am to be attacked by Boats; Sir, I must mention I think the *Scorpion* is almost the only Vessel in his Majesty's Service that an Enemy with only small Arms could effect any Execution; but she is without Waist, and her Decks consequently without Cover; The men are entirely exposed to the Enemy's fire, and this, Sir, is not the only difficulty I have in defending her; from the Negligence of the Builder of the Dock Yard she came from, there is neither Eye bolt or Ring bolt in the Decks to run the Guns in; and arriving at Boston, not expecting such Service, I have not yet had time to make Netting against being boarded, and this Night shall be without it. However I must conclude with assuring you I am making the Ship as defensible as possible in my power. I am &c.

John Tollemache

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 164, 165, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Scorpion*, JOHN TOLLEMACHE,
COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 at 7 A M Weigh'd the Stearn Anchor at 9 Weighed & came to
Monday 31 Sail, hove to made Sail Occasly Mode Breezs & fair 1/2 past 1
P M came to with the Bt Br in 5 fam off the LightHouse, Veer'd to
1/2 a Cable, at 4 Veer'd away & Moor'd a Cable each way with

Springs on them, our Boat return'd with the Officer and Men at 9 fir'd 4 Shot at the Rebels on Shore at the Lighthouse, sent a Boat Man'd and Arm'd to watch their motions. People under Arms all night Moor'd off the Lighthouse Point Alderton SSE $\frac{1}{2}$ E Lighthouse NNE $\frac{1}{2}$ E

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] July 31 [1775]. The Dwelling house adjoining to the Lighthouse being burnt, it became necessary to guard against the Rebels totally destroying the Lighthouse, by placing a Man of War in the Channel until the Building was made defensible; The *Scorpion* of 14 Guns just arrived was therefore ordered on this Service

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 164, MassHS Transcript.

"COPY OF A LETTER FROM VICE ADMIRAL [SAMUEL] GRAVES TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CUSTOMS DATED *Preston*, BOSTON JULY 31, 1775" ¹

Gentlemen In Answer to your Letter July 27th I am to acquaint you that several Vessels have arrived in this Harbour since May last, and that I have given such Directions Concerning them as the Egencies of the times, required, and I thought best for his Majestys Service.

I am Gentlemen &ca &ca.

Sam^l Graves –

1. Gage Papers, CL.

ROBERT HALLOWELL, COMPTROLLER FOR THE PORT OF BOSTON, TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CUSTOMS ¹

(Copy)

Hon'ble Sirs I beg leave to acquaint the Honorable Board that on Saturday Evening [July 29], I discoverd at the long Wharf in this Town a small Sloop unloading Brandy, Wines Soap, Cordials, and other articles of Merchandize, on making inquiry found her to be a French Vessel, and the person, who appeared to have the direction informed me, that he was sent into this Port by one of His Majesty's Ships, and that he had permission from Admiral [Samuel] Graves, to unlade & sell the Cargo, I immediately told him that I was an Officer of the Kings Revenue, and he must not presume to sell or deliver any of the Goods, nor unlade any more for that I should immediately place the Kings Officers on board his Vessel, and take those already unloaded into Custody – I accordingly placed three Tidesmen Vizt Hammond Green, Owen Richards & John Petitt, and gave them charge of the Vessel & the goods in the Store, with directions to be attentive that nothing was removed from either place, – at 11 o Clock Hammond Green came & acquainted me that His Excellency Genl [Thomas] Gage had sent positive Orders for them all to disperse, and leave that Vessel and Store, which order was complied with – under these Circumstances, I think it my duty to acquaint



PUBLISHED

Reveries upon the Fight at the BOSTON

LIGHTHOUSE

Which happen'd, between a Party of rascals belonging to the UNITED COLONIES, Commanded by Major TUPPER, and a Number of Regulars.

And having wrote some verses on the Military operations in America this Year, I was requested among the rest to write out an ode taking and demolishing the Lighthouse; if by the means the good Hand of Providence to our arms may be more visibly blunted and kept in Manaw, perhaps it may apologise for my attempt. So I left a Friend, E. R.

Behold a vast and wide expanse of sea,
And see the waves of trouble on the deep,
Which seem to rise and dip their arms aside,
You keep your ground, and do not fear their pride.

First, many of your Son this year are slain,
Yet still undaunted stand you for the same,
While Liberty your glorious arms to adorn,
You fight to quench oppression's raging flame.

Americans attend and pray now view,
You may see that hath appear'd for you,
Which your dearest wish give the victory,
And see with safe head down these enemies.

And all the loss you this year sustain,
You see God's blessing victory you gain,
For which it you give GOD his proper praise,
Your Laws above oppression's power may raise.

The BOSTON Lighthouse that did help our foe,
By God's assistance was all overthrown,
By means of which in danger they must be,
Should other signs of War come against thee.

But when they see this BOSTON would repair,
That they may pass the Channel without fear,
They met with loss repaid to their surprise,
Their work were all destroy'd before their eyes.

Americans behold with joyful eyes,
The Lighthouse now in ruin lies,
It gives no light to blind tyrants here,
And tho' they fight thus they can move thy tears.

This narrative I will in brief relate,
And show you the FORRETS shameful fate,
Who were defeated in their wicked plot,
Fetter'd in Chains it's hop'd will be their Lot.

Upon the Thirty-first of last July,
Major TUPPER and his men with speed did fly,
And drawing near the Lighthouse where they found
On bloody ground would keep their ground.

When TUPPER and his men had landed there,
Their enemies to fight them did prepare,
But all in vain they could not them withstand,
But fell as victims to our valiant hand.

Three YANKEES there, they killed on the spot,
And five YANKEES were wounded by our shot,
Who fighting for a cruel TYRANT KING,
Our LAND IN SLAVERY they saw would bring.

A Lieutenant of the MARINES there dy'd,
Two private soldiers fell down at his side,
Who wallow'd in their bloody crimson gore,
And dyed fighting for YANKEES power.

All those who were not kill'd and wounded there,
Were taken captive by our men we hear,
The numbers came to set the captives free,
They kill'd but one we hear, and wounded three.

Their sad example well may others dread,
Who heard the fate of them that were then dead,
And warning take lest they at last should fall,
The fate of those who foul oppressors call.

Among the PRISONERS that they brought here,
Eleven YANKEES then, were did appear,
With guilt and shame they through our TOWNS were led,
Their village told all men their fear and dread.

By guards they were convey'd to Wiltshire town,
Where Sons of Liberty did on themrown,
They can't erect a common capiv's lot,
Since they their country's wealth and blood have sought.

Their Passions now cannot be brought to rest,
But must be kept in cold in cloister kept,
Where to rest their at home treachery,
Without respect from friends to Liberty.

Some of the RASCALS that taken were
With cheerful countenances did appear,
While YANKEES bore a melancholy face,
They feared Death destroy'd, and sad disgrace.

One Captain White of Marlborough we hear say,
A noted foe of North-America,
Among the rest was then a YANKEE made,
Whole fate may make such as himself afraid.

A noted rascal from New-York we hear,
A master Carpenter that worked there,
Was forc'd to lay his Ax and Hammer by,
And like a murderer bound to chains must lie.

More sorrow must reveal in see their tears,
Filled with shame and rackt with painful fears,
You tender hearts concerning them agree
That their deaths for future warning be.

Should future ages hear how they did fall,
And their unhuman deeds to memory call,
It may serve to erup such treasurers in the land,
Before oppression e'er her swelling flood.

Before this narrative I had not per'd,
Had I not hop'd 'twould might answer some good end
Should it cause us to fear a tyrant path,
It might serve us from impending wrath.

Give GOD the glory of what thou dost gain
And he thy glorious leader will remain.
Who like a friend that had your Marlborough bands,
And give thy tyrant foes into thy hands.

If thou on GOD dost truly rest thy trust,
Thou need not dread thy foes oppressing laws,
Give GOD the glory that he work on claim,
And thou shalt enemies that'll put to shame.

So shall he vile oppressors hide their head,
To rob the innocent shall be afraid,
While those who love true Liberty and Liberty,
With joy shall be crown'd and feared high.

CHELMSFORD: Printed and sold by Nathaniel C.

Dorset Street, M.

and Vetter by the Office

the Hon'ble Board, how far I proceeded in an affair of so much importance to the Kings Service. – I am &c

(sign'd) Rob: Hallowell Comptr for the Port of Boston

Boston 31st July. 1775

1. Gage Papers, CL.

LOOSE SHEETS IN THE NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston, July 31, 1775]

The . . . expedition of Captain [John] Robinson ² was formed in consequence of intelligence given that the Rebels had between two & three hundred whale boats in a Wood on the Banks of German Town River. He had all the Marines of the Squadron and the following Boats Vizt 3 from the *Somerset*, 3 from the *Boyne*, 3 from the *Preston* and the *Scorpions* Pinnace. The whole well armed and provided with every thing necessary to set fire to the Whale Boats, rendezvoused on board the *Spitfire* arm'd Sloop at 10 at Night, and from thence proceeded down the Harbour, it proved a very dark Night. Our Cannon at Boston Lines and Charles Town Camp were fired and many Shells thrown into Roxborough, in order to deceive the Rebels into an expectation a little before Day Light, and thereby to draw both their Attention and Troops from the place where Capain Robinson was to land and destroy the Whale Boats. The Channel of the River was intricate, but the Boats had two Pilots among them, and the firing from Boston and Roxborough increased with the Darkness. The Pilots however, whether from being Brothers and Americans, or from ruminating on their fate should they be taken, or from any other cause, were observed to be much alarmed, and upon approaching the Shore could give no clear directions. Every method to inspire them with Courage was in vain tried. Rewards or Threatenings were alike ineffectual; they continued in a manner petrified; And as the expedition depended on their Skill, Integrity and Spirit, it was from necessity laid aside on account of this sudden alteration in them, none other of the crew being found sufficiently acquainted with the River, or the Country, to conduct the Armaments, or that knew exactly the Spot where the Boats were concealed. And although it would have required little time to burn the whole, yet it was thought unadvisable to risque so many men and boats in a River totally unknown to all, as a Discovery must have been fatal therefore just at Daybreak Captain Robinson, finding nothing could be done, determined to return. However this determination was scarcely taken, when he was alarmed with a firing at the Lighthouse, and he instantly rowed towards it with his whole Force, being then within a mile or two; so that it is difficult to account for the rebels success against Lieut Coulthurst's party in any other manner than the Admiral hath done. [It] seems the Rebels had that morning attacked the Lighthouse Guard and carried off the entire Party Prisoners; the Marine Officer who was killed, and two wounded Marines, excepted . . . if there had been the good conduct and Resolution exerted which might have been expected from [so] strong a Party [unfinished].

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 178–181, MassHS Transcript.

2. Robinson was captain of the Admiral's ship, *Preston*.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*"¹

July 1775 At single Anchor in Rhode Island Harbour
 Monday 31 at 8 [A M] sent a Sloop with a petty Officer and 6 Men to weigh
 the stream Anchor, at 10 weigh'd and came to sail.
 4 P M Anchd in Rhode Isl'd Harbour at 7 return'd the Sloop
 with our Petty Officer & Men but was oblig'd to leave our Stream
 Anchor and Cable being Chac'd by the rebel Privateers.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, JULY 31, 1775

Newport, July 31.

Last Thursday [July 27] a large schooner came into this harbour, supposed from Boston, inquired for the men of war, and finding they were gone out, she immediately tacked and stood out again, in pursuit of them.

Last Saturday, the ships *Rose*, *Swan* and *Kingfisher*, with the above schooner, returned into this harbour, and brought in 2 brigs, and 3 sloops from the West Indies. They have released one brig.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[Extract]

Ticonderoga, July 31, 1775

I have a boat on stocks, sixty feet in length, which I hope to finish by this day week, I suppose she will carry between two and three hundred men; another of the same size, is to be put up to-day, so that I hope soon to have vessels enough to move on. If any more powder can be got, I hope it will be sent, as not half a ton will be left, if so much, when the troops are completed to a pound a man.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, II, 43.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Liberty*¹

[Lake Champlain]

July the 31th [1775] sailed down the Lake some Distance meeting with heavy Squalls to the Northward, returned & came to an Anchor under Schuyler's Island for Safety –

1. Papers CC, 153, I, NA.

FRANCIS STEPHENS TO GENERAL [THOMAS] GAGE¹

[Extract]

Office of Ordnance, New York, 31 July, 1775

Thursday the 13th, about eight o'clock in the evening, Francis Staple, the person who has the care of Turtle Bay, came to town and informed me of the following particulars, vizt. That about three o'clock this afternoon, the same sloop which carried off the stores from thence on the night of the 12th ultimo, came again to that place, and was met by a party of the Connecticut troops, supposed to be about fifty men, who put on board the said sloop (as near as he could well guess) about 500 24 lb round shot, 50 ten inch, and the like number of cohorn shells. They likewise broke open the store house, took

out the major part of what remained there, such as old sand bags, empty boxes, &c. and then went off.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, II, 157, 158.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Lunae, 10 ho., A.M., July 31st, 1775

Copy of a Letter, appearing to have been written from Joseph Read, Esq. secretary to Gen. Washington, was read, giving advice of the sailing of three men of war, &c. from Boston.

A draft of a letter to the committee of correspondence for East Hampton and Southold, was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Provincial Congress, New York, 31st July, 1775.

Gentlemen — By the enclosed copy of a letter from Gen. Washington to Gen. [David] Wooster, we think not unlikely the designs of these ships may be to take provisions from different parts; as Montauk, and other parts of the east end of Long Island are much exposed, we judged it proper to give this intelligence that you might take such methods for securing the stock there, as you shall judge necessary. [John] Hulbert and [Daniel] Griffing's companies can be employed for that purpose till otherwise ordered.

I am &c.

To the Committee of Correspondence for East-Hampton and Southold.

Ordered, That a copy be engrossed, and signed by the President, and transmitted.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 93–95.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, July 31, 1775

Agreeable to the order of the day the Congress took into consideration the state of trade after the 10th of Sept. and after some debate, the same was postponed to a future day.

On motion made, *Resolved*, That when the Congress adjourns for recess, it be adjourned to meet at Philadelphia.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 235.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] July 31st. [1775]

Mr. William Bigland waited on the Board with a Draught of a Rowing Wheel which he proposed to have fixed to the Provincial Row-Boats.

Colo. [Daniel] Roberdeau is desired to return him the thanks of this board for his Communication.

Mr. Hulings sent a Model of a boat, which was approved of, and Capt. [Robert] White is desired to return the thanks of this Board to Mr. Hulings for the same.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 295, 296.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee 31 July 1775

The Question relating to Messrs Ashburner & Place & Mr Johnson Gildart was postponed.

1. Balt. Com., LC. See Balto. Com. Minutes July 17, 1775.

WOOLSEY AND SALMON TO THOMAS McCABE, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 31st July 1775

business is Nearly at an End, as there will be nothing done after the 10th Sept. Save a little Smugling and we make no doubt if you and your friends would try a Small good going Vessel, to be here in December that she might get Safe. if the Master was Cliver & well Acquainted here the Cargo would do best from Russia to Consist of Russia Sheetings Powder &c &c of which our G[eorge] S[almon] Can Inform you fully.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

WILLIAM REYNOLDS TO JOHN NORTON & SONS ¹

Gentlemen

Virginia July 31st 1775

I wrote you 16th past by a Mr Gibbs who went passenger with Capt Miller to which I beg leave to refer I have not recd any letter from you since. The purport of this is to desire you to Insure 7 hhd's Tobo in the *London* at £12 a hhd. The Convention now sitting have determined to Imbody between 3 & 4 thousand Men who are to be quarter'd between Williamsbg & York to divert the Troops on their first Landing as we have been informed we may expect 3 or 4 Regiments. The proceedings to the Norwd you will no doubt hear sooner than any Information from hence can reach you. I am [&c.]

1. William Reynolds Letter Book, LC.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 Elizabeth River [Virginia]

Monday 31 A M arrived here the *Betsey* Sloop with part of the 14th Regiment of light Infantry from St Augustine.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Cruizer*, FRANCIS PARRY, COMMANDING ¹

July 1775 Moor'd off the Fort [Johnston]

Sunday 31st seiz'd the Snow *Fisher & Friendship*, Wm Forester Master, having on bd 3 pipes of Gin from Bremen ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

2. According to his journal, Parry libeled the snow on August 4 and it was condemned in the Admiralty Court at Brunswick, on Aug. 9, 1775.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775 [Port Royal Sound]

July 31 Sailed from Port Royal, with the wind at South; and turned down to Jenkins' landing.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

GEORGE JAMES BRUERE, GOVERNOR OF BERMUDA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

No 18

Bermuda 31st of July 1775

My Lord A few days agoe, Your Lordships Dispatches reached my Hand, Via South Carolina.

In Answer to Your Lordships letter No 8, to the propositions in former letters, which Your Lordship is graciously pleased to Say You will Attend to, at a proper time. Your Lordship may now be of opinion, that the Situation we are now in, will Require it, more than in profound Peace. first in respect to the Care of any Stores that may be here. As there may be but few friends to Government here.

Secondly Since the bill was passed, to prevent the exportation of Corn, Rice, flour, and all Sorts of Grain that might at that time be in these Islands, or hereafter might Arrive, to detain any Vessel even bound to the West Indies. with any such Cargo. Several Vessels have been Stopped, and their Vessels and cargo detained, Notwithstanding We have Stopped more flour and Rice particularly than we are able to purchase and Consume, while it be good.

I have Called the Assembly by Proclamation twice, Upon the Several Petitions of the Masters of Vessels, and the owners of the flour and Rice. And Your Lordship may find that it was pointed out in their own Bill, to Call the Assembly, Yet Notwithstanding they have as Yet neglected to meet.

And there is a large quantity of flour and Rice that remains unsold, that hath been Shipped and Consigned to Ports, in the West Indies And the vessels have touched at Bermuda, to see their friends, or for Water or some other Cause.

I have received a Petition addressed to the Legislative Body from Sr George Colebroke Sr James Cockbourn and others from Dominica but the General Assembly have neglected to meet as yet to hear it read. The[y] have Chosen *Delegates here* Who have Petitioned the Congress at Philadelphia to Supply them with Indian Corn. And they wait for the return of their answer, before I suppose they *will meet*.

I could Supply General [Thomas] Gage and [William] Howe &c &c and my two Sons, that are with the Army; with fresh Stock (or provisions) of Different Sorts which it is Said they much want. But I cannot Confide in any Person here at present they Say they may have their Vessel burnt. I could send either four oxen, some Sheep Pigs and Poultry of Different Sorts &c. The Sick and wounded might be taken care of here, as the best and mildest Climate and Situated near enough for a Repository for Stores.

I will enclose this letter to my private agent or to one of my Children at School in England, that the Address may not be seen here. The letters and the last dispatches were opened by the Committee of Inspection, at South Carolina.

few People to be trusted, or any Dependence on what they write, in their News papers concerning the Army or themselves.

And the best way to Send Your Lordships dispatches will be to Barbados or Antigua, as opportunity May offer.

I have the Honor to be My Lord [&c.]

George Jas Bruere

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 37/36, 808.

1 Aug.

GENERAL ORDERS ISSUED BY GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Head Quarters, Cambridge, August 1, 1775.

Parole Gibraltar

Countersign Fairfield

The General thanks Major [Benjamin] Tupper, and the Officers and Soldiers under his Command, for their gallant and soldierlike behaviour in possessing themselves of the enemy's post at the Light House, and for the Number of Prisoners they took there, and doubts not, but the Continental Army, will be as famous for their mercy as for their valour.

Two Sub[altern]s. two serjeants, one Drum, and thirty Rank and File, to parade at Head Quarters at Noon; to escort the prisoners to Worcester. The Commanding Officer will receive his orders from the Adjutant General.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 381.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Tuesday, August 1, 1775

Ordered, That the Message from the honourable Board, relative to the distressed situation of the Eastern parts of the Colony, be recommitted, and that Mr. Greenleaf, Colonel Thompson, and Dr. Baylis be added to the Committee in [the] room of Colonel Freeman, Major Brooks, and Captain White.

Afternoon

The Committee appointed to consider the Accounts of Mr. John Derby, and Mr. Richard Derby, Jun. reported. Read and accepted.

Resolved, That there be paid out of the publick Treasury of this Colony to Mr. John Derby, or his order, the sum of fifty-seven Pounds and eight Pence Sterling, agreeable to his Account.

Resolved, That there be paid to Richard Derby, Jun., Esq. or to his order, out of the publick Treasury of this Colony the sum of one hundred and sixteen Pounds, four Shillings, and four Pence half-penny, in full of his Account

[Endorsed] In Council, August 1, 1775: Read and concurred.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 296-298, from Mass. Arch.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston August 1st 1775,

Sir Lieutenant Dickinson representing to me that he is unable to act Commander on Board the *Symetry* with any Respect of being useful to the service, or without injuring his own Reputation: I am under the necessity of ordering the *Symetry* away, and Applying to you for the Aid of One of His Majestys Vessels to take her station.

I send this by Lieutenant Dickinson who will be able to explain himself.

I am with great Regard, Sir, &ca.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir,

Boston 1st August 1775

I beg your Excellency's Pardon for not sooner Answering your Letter of the 28th but I immediately ordered Captain [John] Robinson to arrange the Transports for their greater Security.

I expect the *Merlin* in every day, when the *Scorpion* now in the Light House Passage shall take the *Symmetry's* Birth. In the mean time, if your Excellency consents, I will send a Lieutenant to Command the *Symmetry*, who will prevent the irregularities complained of and carry on the Service that Mr Dickinson from his Situation, cannot do – And If 'tis likewise agreeable to your Excellency he shall remain in the *Symmetry* until I can place a Twenty Gunship there, which I would rather do, than the *Scorpion* who, at present, I do not think sufficiently strong for that Service.

If your Excellency is of my Opinion: I will give The Lieutenant to Command the *Symmetry* any Orders Your Excellency shall think necessary, or he shall be directed to receive them immediately from Yourself as your Excellency shall think best for the Service. I have the Honor to be with great Respect Sir,
[&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Scorpion*, JOHN TOLLEMACHE,
COMMANDING ¹

August 1775

Moor'd off the Lighthouse Point Alderton SSE $\frac{1}{2}$ E Light-house NNE $\frac{1}{2}$ E

Tuesdy 1

A M Empd making Boarding Nettings &c. Do W. [P M] Empd as before

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE, COMMANDING ¹

August 1775

The Land off Cape Ann N N W 4 or 5 Leag.

Tuesdy 1

at 10 A M Spoke a Brigg from Boston for Nova Scotia. at 5 P M Saw a Sail in the S E gave Chace Spoke a Schooner from St

Eustatia took her in Tow ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.
2. The *Byfield* schooner, John Fletcher, master, from Dominica and St. Eustatia for Gloucester with rum and sugar. The vessel was taken up as an armed schooner and the cargo sold in Boston. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN, NAVY VICTUALLING AGENT AT RHODE ISLAND, TO
ALEXANDER BRYMER, PRINCIPAL AGENT IN AMERICA ¹

Dear Sr

Newport August 1st 1775

Your favors 30. June – & 12 July pr the *Peggy*. I duly recd I forbear complaining of my hard fate in this affair, I nevertheless am much Indebted for your kind intention to serve me a line from me which Mr Lostaw undertook to have conveyed to you notes the manner of adjusting the *Peggys* Freight as compromised wth him which I hope you will sepperate from the order for the Cargo. – your Disbursments for the *Peggy*. £17.8. is to your Credit, the Beef furnished the *Rose* is Included in her present Vouchers which has been in the Pursers hands this 14 days for signing have wrote him twice with the adition of Messages to which are not favourd with any answer why they are not executed or signed my accos are closed to 15. July except this Vouchr to compleat them Ballance in my favor upwards of £600 Lawfull money – a Vessel from this in 15 or 20 days for London affords me a conveyance by whom will forward the first Vouchers of each sett for both Ships the 2d shall be handed you with my Accounts pr. the first Vessell for Boston after I am in Possession of them— the Impracticability of Negotiating Bills here in a Short time, the Total Stop of Trade in September – with every Resourse for obtaining Provisions from the Neighbouring Colonies being cut off it puts it out of my Power to Support the Contract any longer for want of money &c &c – I therefore must request you will asoon as Possible fall upon some expedient to Exonerate Me from the Discharge of the Same – Shoud our next news from London carry with it the apearance of no Accomodation bills coud not be negotiated here for any Discot nay am Doubtfull if coud raise money on them now a[t] 10 PCt – & most People of money woud quit the town – as many have – conveyances are very uncertain Altho I cannot obtain the *Roses* Vouchers from Lewis ² – I thought it best to forward my acct as I closed them with that Voucher Includd therein – also the *Swans* first Vouchers finished – & must depend upon Conveying the *Roses* when obtain them the account of which you have Inclosed – with my account Currt ballance in my favor £606.5.3 which please to confirm in your next with bills for the Ballance – & acct. Exchange I may have a few hundred Stg. in money to Spare If I coud place in Secure hands in England with a small Interest 'till our Troubles end should be glad of bills for it at 10 PCt which I suppose can be had of Mr. loyd – our part says 15 PCt of this please to advise me where to place it, Merchts having large sums due from this Country must stop – for want of remittance – therefore unsafe – the 15000 Bread noted in my former letter has been since drawn for a 15/, Stg PC – I am Dr Sir [&c.]

C C

[Endorsed] Copy Letter To A Brymer August 1st 1775

1. Champlin Papers, III, 85, RIHS.
2. Purser of H.M.S. *Rose*.



(Left) Governor John Wentworth. By John S. Copley, 1769.



(Right) Christopher Champlin. By Charles B. J. F. de St. Memin, c. 1800.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Liberty*¹

[Lake Champlain]

August 1st [1775] weighed anchor & proceeded down the Lake nothing remarkable.

1. Papers CC, 153, I, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK¹[New York] Die Martis, 9 ho. A.M. August 1st, 1775

The President informed the Congress that the Recorder had waited on him at the door, and informed him that the boat which had been building by order of the Committee of Safety was sawed to pieces, and entirely destroyed.

Ordered, That this matter be taken into consideration to-morrow morning.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 95-97.

BILL FOR BUILDING BOAT FOR H.M.S. *Asia*¹

[New York] August th 1 1775

Mr Joseph Totten and Crosfeild

To Henry Sheaffer

for building A boat for the Ship *Asia*

this boat abt 28 feet in length a 18s pr foot

£25 4 0

The boat not finshed by one Quarter

6 6 0

the ballance

£18 18 0

[Endorsed] Augt 11 1775 Examined & Allowd in the Sum of Eighteen pounds
Eighteen Shillings

Rich^d Yates

H Braster

Sam^l Verplanck

To Peter Van Bergh Livingston Esqr

1. Revolutionary Manuscripts, vol. 1, NYSL.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹[Philadelphia] Tuesday, August 1st. [1775.]

Resolved, That Cap't. Nichalos Biddle be appointed to the Command of the Boat called the *Franklin*,² now building by Emanuel Eyres. And that Cap't., John Hammilton be appointed to the command of the Boat called the *Congress*, now building by Eman[ue]l Eyres. And that Cap't. [Henry] Dougherty, now Commander of the Boat *Experiment*, be removed to the Boat called the *Washington*, now building by Mr. John Wharton.

And that Allen Moore, Lieut. of the Boat *Experiment*, be appointed Commander of the said Boat.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 296.

2. Extract from James Biddle's second draft of a memorial to his brother Nicholas: "in 1775 the Disputes between Gr Bn & America growing very serious and Congress being desirous of preparing for the worst if a Rupture should ensue some Gentn were appointed to procure a Supply of Powder and Arms with all possible Dispatch and Secrecy. Mr

Biddle was applied to for the purpose and dispatched with a pilot boat to Hispaniola which he procured a Cargo of powder with which he returned in a very short time. Soon after he was appointed to the Command of the *Franklin* Galley then just built." Nicholas Biddle Papers, HSP.

COMMISSION OF NICHOLAS BIDDLE AS CAPTAIN IN THE PENNSYLVANIA NAVY ¹

To Nicholas Biddle, Eesquire.

In Committee of Safety

We reposing especial trust and confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity. Do by these Present constitute and appoint you to be Captain of the Provincial Armed Boat, called the *Franklin* fitted out for the protection of the Province of Pennsylvania, and the Commerce of the River Delaware, against all hostile Enterprizes, and for the defence of American Liberty: you are therefore to take the said Boat into your charge, and carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of Captain by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers, Soldiers and Mariners under your command to be obedient to your orders, as Captain. And you are to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time, as you shall receive from the Assembly or Provincial Convention, during their Sessions, or from this or a future Committee of Safety for this Province, or from your Superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, pursuant to the trust reposed in you; this commission to continue in force until revoked by the Assembly or Provincial Convention, or by this or any succeeding Committee of Safety.

By order of the Committee.

B. Franklin, Presid't

Philadelphia, August 1st 1775.

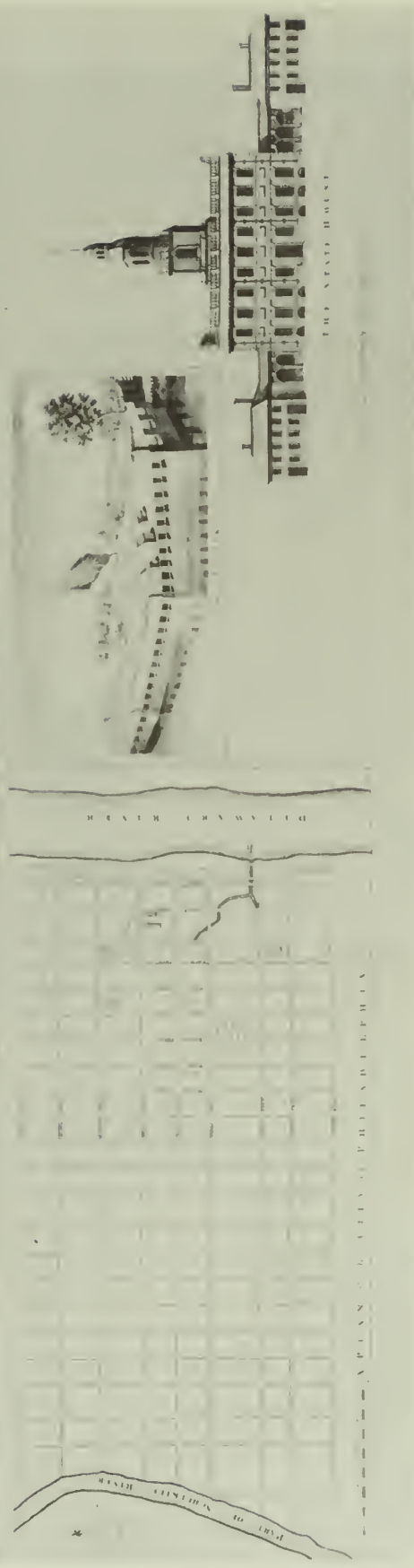
Wm. Govett, Sec'ty

1. James S. Biddle, ed., *Autobiography of Charles Biddle, Vice-President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, 1745-1821* (Philadelphia, 1883), 393. While three captains had been commissioned prior to Biddle, his is the earliest one that has been located. Although dated August 1, it was not issued until after August 26, 1775, when the form was adopted and one hundred copies ordered printed. Hereafter cited as Biddle, ed., *Charles Biddle Autobiography*.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED AUGUST 1, 1775" ¹

I am amazed at the stupor and supineness of your Admiralty. For God's sake what are you doing in England? Are the friends of Great Britain and their property to be left exposed at this rate, to the dictates of an inhuman rabble? . . . Where is the boasted Navy of our country, that only one poor sloop is stationed here? Whereas, if we had but three ships of war, one of fifty and two of forty guns each, this place would not only be kept in awe, and the friends of Government secured, but a sufficient quantity of provisions might be had at all times for your fleet and army, which, we are informed, are half starved at Boston. As to the sloop we have here, the *Nautilus*, I fear she will soon go to the shades; for our good friends are building above fifty row-boats of large dimensions, which are to have a twenty-four pounder in the stern sheets, several swivels in the sides, and plenty of musquets for the people on board, and all for the purpose of attacking the King's ships that may arrive here. But if Government would order the Navy to

In East Prospect of the CITY of PHILADELPHIA taken by Glasses. It is from the JERSEY SHORE, under the Direction of VICTORAS DE CILL, Surveyor General of the PROVINCE of PENNSYLVANIA.



Philadelphia, 1768.

sink all these vessels to the bottom wherever they met with them, a few examples of such timely severity would keep them on shore. I must not forget to tell you, that they are smuggling from the French West-Indies in pilot boats, all the ammunition they can get; but two or three cruisers off the Capes would soon put an end to that business . . . We had a schooner a few days since who brought a considerable quantity of gunpowder stowed under molasses, and when she arrived, she hoisted in bravo a French jack, ensign and pendant. If government mean to do anything, they must do it quickly, or the contest will be the stronger. I am surprised you do not take and stop all the ships going in or coming out of these ports. Conceal my name; or I should run a great risque of my life and property, were it discovered here that I had sent you any account of these proceedings: Indeed, I incur some danger in writing at all; nor should I, if I could not confide in my conveyance.

1. *London Chronicle*, September 26 to September 28, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, August 1, 1775

Resolved, That the sum of sixteen thousand dollars be paid to the delegates of the colony of Pensylvania, in full for the like sum by them borrowed by order of the Congress, on June 3d last, for the use of the Continent.

Whereas, at a former Congress, it was resolved, that, if certain acts of parliament, in the continental Association enumerated and complained of, should not be repealed on or before the 10th day of September, 1775, the inhabitants of these United Colonies would not, directly or indirectly, export any merchandize or commodity whatsoever, to Great Britain, Ireland, or the West Indies; and as some doubt has arisen with respect to the true spirit and construction of said resolve; to the end, that such doubts may be removed,

Resolved, That under the prohibition, in the said association contained, to export to, or import from, the Islands of Great Britain and Ireland, this Congress intends to comprize all exportation to, and importation from, the islands of Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Alderney, and Mann, and every European island and settlement within the British dominions; and that under the denomination of West Indies, this Congress means to comprehend all the West Indian islands, British and foreign, to whatever state, power, or prince belonging, or by whomsoever governed, and also the Summer islands, Bahama Islands, Berbicia and Surinam on the Main, and every island and settlement within the latitude of the southern line of Georgia and the Equator.

Adjourned to Tuesday, the 5 of Sepr next.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 237-239. The preamble to, and the last resolution were printed in the *Pennsylvania Packet*, August 21, 1775.

RICHARD HENRY LEE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia, 1st August 1775

We understand here that Batteries, may be constructed at the entrance of the Bay of Boston so as to prevent the egress & regress of any Ships whatever. If this

be fact, would it not Sir be a signal stroke to secure the Fleet & Army in and before Boston so as to compel a surrender at discretion. While I write this, I assure you my heart is elated with the contemplation of so great an event. A decisive thing, that would at once end the War, and vindicate the injured liberties of America. But your judgement, and that of your brave Associates, will best determine the practicability of this business.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] Augt 1st 1775

I wrote you a Very long letter of the 29th June by Capt [James] Camble [Campbell] Via Cork, which is some time out of the Capes, and I assure you I am Glad, as I was fearfull of its falling into the hands of the men of War. I also wrote you the 11th July, by Capt [Peter] Templeton Via Cork. to boath I refer you – since then none of your favours. – its Unnecessary for me to Say more About the Schooner ² than I have done. the Directions I sent you by her when she first went to Dublin must be a better Guide than all I could say at present beside if any of our friends want to try a little that way, you Can from them Directions & your own knowledge give them proper Advice, – I have hinted to Willcocks & Co & T[homas]McCabe,³ that such Matters might be done & referd them to you, they are the only too I have wrote to. . . .

I would advise you not to Come out if you find a probabillity of any thing being done in the former Scheme of the Schooner with any friends. I think you might give your friends Incouragemt & you may be Assured Money may be made. you have Inclosed a list of Goods Much Wanted, and likely to be so,⁴ as no man will be such a fool, as to bring in Goods from England or Ireland.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. The schooner *Industry*.

3. See letters of June 29 and July 31, 1775.

4. See enclosure following.

LIST OF SALEABLE ARTICLES ¹

[Enclosed in letter from George Woolsey to George Salmon August 1, 1775]

Gunpowder Differt Quallityes	a 85/	£400. 0. 0
Good Musketts fitted with Bayonetts		200
Russia Sheeting		400
Russia Duck & Canvass		200
Osnabrigs		600
an assortment of Common Needells & Brass }		100
pins 3½lb 4lb 4½lb in Packets }		
Checks & Striped Hollands		300
Writing paper assorted		60
Pepper		40
Low priced linnens		400

Corse Woolens Viz

Blue Green & White half thicks	£150	
White & Coulerd Kerseys	150	
Negro Cotton	100	
Fearnaut Duffellds & Coatings	100	500
Bar lead & Shot. Most lead		100
4d 8d 10d 12d & 20d Nails		600
Sene & Sewing twine thread & Sewing Silk	100	4000

you must proportion these Goods According to the Quantity and they must not be Brittish or Irish Manufacture nor Shipped from them places, if the Scheme is Carried into Execution.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

MATTHEW TILGHMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION, TO THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION¹

Gentlemen,

Annapolis, 1st August 1775.

The Resolution of your Convention, That no Flour, Wheat or other Grain or Provisions of any Kind should be exported from your Colony to any part of the World after the fifth Day of August came to Hand by your Express Yesterday afternoon. The Delegates from this Province have communicated to this Convention, That the Utility and propriety of stopping Exports had been fully considered by the Congress, and that they had not thought proper to stop the Exports before the 10th Day of September. We have received Information that the Congress intended to adjourn the Beginning of this Week, so that this Subject cannot again be brought before them. This Convention on mature Consideration do not see that the Advantages to the common Cause by an immediate Stoppage of the Export of Provisions could equal the Inconveniencies and Distresses of Individuals which would certainly be occasioned thereby nor that any Distress could be brought on the common Enemy by our coming into your Resolution without the Accession of the Colonies of Pennsylvania and New York, which cannot be brought about sooner than the 10th of September, as the Convention of New York will probably rise about the same Time as the Congress, and the Assembly of Pennsylvania hath already adjourned. For these Reasons, We have unanimously resolved not to prohibit Exports before that Day. We are [&c.] By Order of the Convention.

1. Md. Arch., Red Book, vol. II.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION¹

[Annapolis] Tuesday, August 1, 1775

On motion, Resolved, That any person or persons who shall hereafter import into this Province any Arms or Ammunition, shall be at liberty to sell the same to the Inhabitants for any price they can agree for.

1. Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*, XI, 8.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775 [Tybee Sound]

Aug. 1 Got under way, and turned through Skull Creek, and came to, at Callaboge.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

2 Aug.

COLONEL JAMES CARGILL TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

To the Honourable the Great and General Court, assembled at Watertown:
The Memorial of the Officers of the Eastern Regiment of Militia, in the County of Lincoln, in Council met at Booth-Bay, August 2, 1775, humbly sheweth:
That in the night between the 20th and 21st of July ultimo, the Colonel of said Regiment received information by express that a Frigate, with four Transport Ships and three Sloops, were arrived at Long Island, in Penobscot Bay, and taking on board fuel and provisions for General [Thomas] Gage's Army. That the Colonel immediately dispatched orders to the proper officers to meet him at St. George's, with a third part of each Company under his command; in consequence of which the several Companies of each Regiment marched the next day. That on their arrival off said place of rendezvous it was found that certain persons, not under their command, had gone to Camden, the place of continent nearest to said island. That fearing the effects of this incident, the body marched after them with all possible expedition, but as soon as they reached Camden they had certain intelligence that, by means of said persons, the enemy had already received notice of the approach and design of the Militia, and in consequence thereof had moved from the land out of the reach of their arms. That a council was immediately called, in which it was judged impracticable to execute the plan hitherto adopted against the foe thus alarmed, nor was any other way of defeating their intentions now in the power of the Militia, but that of cutting off their communications with the Main, preventing any ill-disposed persons from sending them supplies, and themselves from making any secure lodgment on shore – that as Fort Pownall stood contiguous to good navigation for Ships of any burden, it was untenable by any force we could throw into it – as it was just at hand to the present station of the enemy; unapproachable by us if once they shall get possession; so situated as to command the settlements on the River and Bay; and, with the assistance of a few men and one or two small armed vessels, capable of distressing the inhabitants of the greatest part of the eastern country, so as to oblige them to abandon their abodes or act the Tory to the uttermost; it was therefore judged to be the most alluring bait, and, at the same time the easiest prey the foe could find in these parts – and as a letter from Mr. [Edward] Winslow, who conducts their said fleet, to the Committee of St. George's, together with a pretended certificate from some Selectmen in Boston, intimates a design of returning for more cargoes, it seemed highly probable that their factors would tarry at said

fort, under the protection of the marines now on board said frigate, to prepare matters for this or any other fleet; on like errand, against their return. It was therefore unanimously judged necessary for the publick safety that said Fort Pownall be immediately destroyed. That the Militia marched for said place without delay, and on their way were overtaken by two officers of Colonel McCobb's Regiment, informing that part of said Regiment, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Harnden, was on the march to join them; but as there was no prospect of an opportunity of coming to action with the enemy, this Regiment being so far ahead of them, and being now two hundred and seventy strong, was thought sufficient to accomplish every purpose now attainable; and inasmuch as they came without boats, and your petitioners had not boats enough for the body now with them, their continuing their march was judged needless and inconvenient, and thereupon they returned. That your petitioners, proceeding on their march to Fort Pownall, took two sloops which they found in the employ of carrying necessaries to Boston, with a protection from Admiral [Samuel] Graves. Intelligence was received of several others in the same circumstance at Majabigwaduce, whereupon a party was dispatched thither, which took a sloop loading for Nantucket, together with another sloop and schooner just come from Boston, and bound thither again, with protection from the Admiral. The rest of said Regiment meanwhile went forward, and after assisting Colonel [Thomas] Goldthwait in removing his effects out of said Fort to the Chapel, and saving what shot, lead and old iron they could, burnt the building to the ground, and then brought off a barge belonging to the Colony, which had been employed in the service of the Fort. That your petitioners then reconnoitred the bay, and found the enemy's fleet to remove from place to place sundry times, and to take such posts as made it evident their design was rather to avoid than intercept them. That finding their provisions all spent, and themselves in a country where the necessities of the inhabitants forbod the hope of any supply from them, your petitioners were obliged to return home; accordingly the vessels above mentioned were brought to sail, and arrived safe in Townsend Harbour, in this Town, on Tuesday the first of this instant. That on their return, your petitioners find that they would have been supplied with provisions from the Town of Bristol, had not one of the aforesaid persons, by whose means the enemy was alarmed from Camden, prevented their sending them, after part was put on board of these vessels to convey them to your petitioners. That soon after their arrival, your petitioners met in council to deliberate on what might be proper to be done with the vessels now in custody, and the persons who commanded them; and a regard for the publick safety induced your petitioners to order them to be hauled up, stripped and kept under a constant guard till the pleasure of the honourable Court is known – except the schooner, which for particular reasons, your petitioners have delivered to Major Andrew Reed, of this Town, to be employed in defence of this coast, and in suppressing trade with the enemy, until the orders of the Legislature concerning her shall be received. The masters of said vessels appeared to your petitioners to have offended rather out of ignorance than ill intent, and therefore were dismissed – Nathan Philips, Peleg Cruger and Jonathan Carleton, then sick on shore and incapable of being removed, except who were by plenary evidence found guilty of having made it their business for some

time past to supply the King's Troops with wood, live stock and whatever other provisions they could procure; and therefore your petitioners judged it not for the safety of the Colony, and especially the eastern country, to suffer said persons to go at large. Your petitioners have for that reason referred them to the sentence of the honourable Court, and for that purpose do now send the two former to your Honours by the escort of Major Edward Emerson, an officer of said Regiment, who has been with your petitioners through the whole of the expedition here narrated, and to whom your petitioners can safely refer the honourable Court for a perticular account of every circumstance attending it. Your petitioners pray that the honourable Court would take order respecting the premises, and on the first signification of your Honour's pleasure, the said sloops, schooner, boats, &c. shall forthwith be disposed of agreeably thereunto. And your petitioners in duty bound shall ever pray.

Signed in behalf and per order of the Officers of the Eastern Regiment in the County of Lincoln

James Cargill, Colonel

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

[Boston] August 2 [1775]

The *Merlin* now coming in from a Cruize the Admiral ordered her to take the *Scorpion's* birth, and the latter to come up to Boston to fit for Sea.

The Night before the *Symmetry* armed Transport in Charles River had perceived a great number of Whale Boats, rowing very softly towards Boston, whereupon she made the Private Signal, and the Rebels finding they were discovered, retired. — These nocturnal movements of the Whale Boats about the Harbour, and the knowledge of there being some hundreds of them, capable of carrying from 10 to 16 men each, with Ease, began to cause some apprehensions even in the large men of war, particularly in those stationed some distance from the Town; and the Captains of the *Somerset* and *Boyne* on account of the reduced state of their Complements (having in both Ships nearly 350 Men absent) thought it therefore proper at this time to make . . . Representations to the Admiral.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 165, 166, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Scorpion*, JOHN TOLLEMACHE, COMMANDING¹

August 1775	Moored off the Lighthouse Point Alderton SSE $\frac{1}{2}$ E
Wednesday 2	Lighthouse NNE $\frac{1}{2}$ E.

A M sent the Boat on shore to Watch the motion of the Rebels, at 11 unmoor'd & hove Short on the Small br Punished Geo. Payler Marine for Neglect of Duty Do W[eather] at 2 P M Weighed & came to Sail $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 came too with the Bt Bower in Boston Harbour Moor'd with the Stream Anchor, at 6 made the Signl for a Pilot $\frac{1}{2}$ past the Pilot came onbd at 7 Weigh'd & came to Sail Stood up the Harbour, at 9 Came to with the Bt Bowr

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE, COMMANDING ¹

August 1775 Cape Ann Harbour N N W 3 or 4 Leagues
 Wednesy 2 at 6 A M fird a gun and Brot too a Schooner with wood ² took
 her in tow . . . at 6 P M Sent the Master with two Schooners to
 Boston

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

2. The schooner *Deborah*, William Battershill, master, from Kennebec to Chatham, with wood, shingles and spruce. She was condemned and sold in Boston, Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

Massachusetts Spy, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1775

Worcester, August 2.

Several men of war and two or three transports, sailed last week from Boston, where they were bound was not certainly known, but it is conjectured they are gone in search of fresh provisions.

Last Sunday [July 30] an express arrived from Suffolk County, on Long-Island with information that a number of transports, with a considerable body of troops from Boston, under convoy of five ships of war, had appeared off Montock Point; that an officer landed, and requested to purchase a number of cattle and sheep, which was refused.

By a return express who left the Camp at Cambridge, last Friday evening [July 28], we are informed that 6 sail of transports sailed from Boston, under convoy of a man of war, some time ago, for the Eastward of Casco-Bay, for forage; that they landed a number of men for that purpose: — That while the men from the ships were landed, a number of men from the shore possessed themselves of 5 of the ships, made the seamen and soldiers prisoners, and secured the ships out of reach of the man of war.

"CONFERENCE UPON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE BOSTON PORT BILL" ¹

Boston August the 2d 1775 —

At a Meeting held at the Generals the following Matters were proposed for consideration—

Present

His Excellency General [Thomas] Gage	[Jonathan Sewall] Attorney General
Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves	Mr. Secretary [Thomas] Flucker
Major General [Henry] Clinton	Mr. [Henry] Hulton
Major General [John] Burgoyne	Mr. [William] Burch
Earl [Hugh] Percy	Mr. [Charles] Paxton
Chief Justice [Peter] Oliver	Mr. [Benjamin] Hallowell

At the last consultation held at General Gage's by the desire of Vice Admiral Graves, in the Month of May, upon the Subject of the Boston Port Act, it appeared to be the Opinion of the Gentlemen then met that Vessels might be admitted into this Harbor under certain circumstances, and be stationed at certain Places under the Admirals immediate Directions, but not upon any account to be permitted to unload any part of their Cargoes —

Since that time several Vessels have arrived in the Harbor of Boston from foreign parts with Cargoes of Goods some of which are said to have been discharged without a Report being made to the proper officer, or the Duties which were chargeable in any part of the Goods having been paid –

On Account of the Rebellion the Masters of Vessels cannot go to Plymouth, where the Officers of the Port of Boston have been stationed since the Port Act took place, nor are the proper Officers allowed by the Rebels to receive the Duties there

The Army and remaining Inhabitants in the Town of Boston are in great want of Fuel and Provisions.

The Officers of the Customs stationed at Marblehead for the purpose of carrying into execution the Boston Port Bill have been obliged to remove from thence, & that Vessels laden with Fuel & Provisions for the sustenance of the Inhabitants of Boston can no longer comply with the Regulations of that Act.

The Commissioners of the Customs being desirous of taking the best Measures for securing His Majesty's Duties and preventing the breach of the Acts of Trade and Revenue, beg the Opinion of the Gentlemen –

1st Whether it be advisable that any of the Vessels coming into the Harbor of Boston may be allowed to dispose of any part of their Cargoes for the supply of His Majesty's Army or Navy with Necessaries, or for the sustenance of the Inhabitants of Boston?

Answered unanimously in the affirmative –

2d Whether the Gentlemen would advise the Commissioners of the Customs to remove the Officers of the Customs of the Port of Boston, now at Plymouth, to Boston? –

Answered unanimously in the affirmative.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Lebanon] Wednesday, 2nd August 1775.

At a Meeting of the Governor and Committee or Council of Safety this day

The committee appointed at the last meeting about the armed vessels &c. having performed the journey and business to which they were directed and instructed made a full verbal report of their journey, viewing, conversation and doings concerning armed vessels &c., what they have viewed, the terms on which they made be had, the opinion of gentlemen in various towns, who are concerned in navigation, about the measure of fitting out any &c.; from which it appears sundry vessels may be had on reasonable terms, but none can be found perfectly accomodated for war vessels &c.; that the people are differently minded about the measure, many thinking that as it is impossible for us to compare by sea with the British ships &c., it will but provoke insult and expose our sea coasts and vessels inward bound to greater dangers, &c., – others, that it will be of advantage and a protection &c.

The subject largely discoursed, and it being a measure resolved by the General Assembly &c., doubt whether they have right to suspend it, even tho' they should think it best &c. And on the question do agree and conclude to take

up and improve for the purpose a certain brig belonging to Cap. Wm Griswold of Wethersfield, of about 108 tons, and that she be fixed as and for an armed vessel according to the resolve of the Assembly.

And also, to charter and improve some one vessel of small burden and a fast sailer, or about 20, 25 or 30 tons, and to fix her with such warlike furniture as may be proper; to be improved chiefly as a spy vessel, to run and course from place to place to discover the enemy and carry intelligence, &c.

And do appoint Cap. Saml [Robert] Niles of Norwich to be Captain of said small vessel.

And the Council do appoint Benja Huntington, Esqr and Capn Jno Deshon a committee to find and to fit out and furnish such small vessel with all necessaries for that purpose. And adjourn till tomorrow morning, 9 o'clock.

1. Trumbull and Hoadley, eds., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 109, 110.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Liberty*¹

[Lake Champlain]

August the 2nd [1775] Went on Shore with the Boat with the Lieutenant of the Marines to make Discoveries,

1. Papers CC, 153, I, NA.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

Ticonderoga 2 August 1775

Capt. [James] Smith, who has been sent up by the New York Congress, in lieu of the former Captain who left the sloop, arrived here a few days ago, and has made me a report of what alterations will be necessary to put her into a proper state of defense: But as I have no Carpenters to spare, unless I quit building boats, I have declined it for the present. On which he delivered me a paper, of which the enclosed is a Copy.

If Congress should think is necessary to build Vessels of equal or superior force to those building at St John's, a number of *good* ship carpenters should be immediately sent up, altho this year they would be of no service, but that of transporting troops even if we had them here on account of the want of powder –

1. Papers CC, 153, I, NA.

DEPOSITION OF JOHN CHATFORTH BEFORE MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER¹

Charlotte County to wit

John Chatforth late of Yorkshire in old England duly sworn deposeth & saith that he went from Squire Gilleland's Patent to St Johns about the first of May last, where he has been since employed in farming – that his Father and Mother live there – that he procured a Pass from Major [Charles] Preston to come from St Johns to Mr Gillelands to Harvest, and accordingly left that

Place the 21^t July – that at that Time there were about four Hundred and sixty regular Troops there – But no Canadians except, two Indian Interpreters, and about Half a Dozen hauling Picketts for the Fortification – that there are between thirty & forty Indians there, some of them of the Coynawagas, and some of the Mepassagas who go out for Spies – that this Deponent believes their Orders are not to pass the Line, but cannot tell whether they would act agt the Colonies if required – did not hear that Genl. [Guy] Carlton was inlisting any Canadians – was informed by Mr [John] Duguid that there were some Indians at Montreal, but does not know certainly as he never was there – that he this Deponent had heard the Canadians say they wish to remain neutral – that the Fortification at St Johns is a Fort with a double Row of Picketts and the largest Picketts of it are as big as a Man's Thigh – that there are Trenches on the Out Side, and a Breast Work on the Inside of the Picketts – that they intend to let Water from the Lake into the Trenches – that he was not allowed to go into the Fort, but supposes it to contain about an Acre of Ground, believes they have about eight or ten Guns mounted, Mortars included and are preparing to mount more, as they have more Embrazures for them – that the Fort is square and without Bastions – that there is another Fortification to the Northward of the one described, and like it on which no Cannon are mounted – that the Timber ready framed was hauling by the Canadians from Chamblee when he left St Johns for building two Shooners, one of which is to be of fifty four Feet Keel, & the other of fifty five – that the Timber belonged to Mr Bell and was seized by the Regulars at Chamblee – that Provisions in Canada were very scarce, and that Flour was the most so – that this Deponent saw no Boats at St Johns except two small Batteaus, and did not hear of their having any more elsewhere – that more regular Troops were expected in Canada, which News they heard from Quebec – that he cannot tell what other Troops are in Canada, but that there are some at Chamblee, tho he cannot tell their Number – he knows John Duguid who was a Cooper at St Johns employed by the Commissary – that the Schooners were coming up the Lake as soon as they were finished – that he this Deponent lived better than Half a Mile from the Fort – that he has not lately seen any Provisions come to St Johns & all that are brought must pass by his Door – that he saw the two Men who were taken with the Indian Boy and believes they were sent to Montreal – that he does not suppose the Canadians would take it ill if the Colony Troops were to pass the Line – that he heard & believes there were about three Thousand People assembled at Chamblee to defend themselves agt being forced to take up Arms, who did not continue together above two or three Days, but he cannot tell in what Manner they were dispersed – that the Canadians have Arms but no Ammunition – that the regular Troops declared that when they came up the Lake they would destroy Squire Gilleland's Settlement, and further saith not –

his
John X Chatforth
Mark

Sworn this 2d Day of August 1775 before me Ph. Schuyler – Judge.

[Endorsed] The Above Deposition was taken from the Mouth of the Deponent in the Presence of Genl Schuyler, Col. [Benjamin] Hinman, Col. [Samuel] Motte, & Major [Joseph] Welch, by

John Macpherson.

[Endorsed] Read in Congress Sepr 13th 1775.

1. President's Letter Book, III, LC.

CERTIFICATE OF CAPTAIN JAMES SMITH ¹

I Hereby Certify to whom it may Concern that on the First day of August 1775 by order of Major General [Philip] Schuyler, I took Command of the Sloop *Enterprise* then Lying at Crown point for the Service of the United Colonies and find by Strict examination the Condition she now is in to be of Very Little use to the Service, as I am well assured in the Present State the Vessel might be Easily taken by Four Batteaues with one Swivel Gun and Ten men Armed in Each As Witness my hand this Second Day of August 1775

James Smith Commodore

To His honor Major General Schuyler at Tionderoga-----

1. Papers CC, 153, I, NA.

DEPOSITION OF JOHN DUGUID AT TICONDEROGA ¹

[Extract] Charlotte County ss

John Duguid being duly sworn saith That he is a North Briton & has lived in Canada for about sixteen Months past, That by Order of the Commissary General there, he came to St Johns about a Month and an half ago, as a Cooper that he stayed there about four or five Weeks, when they wanted him to continue in their Service, but he thought it his Duty to come here and give Information & that he left St Johns about twelve Days ago . . . that between thirty & forty Guns of twelve, Eighteen and twenty four Pounders with Carriages were landed at Chamblee, but not brought to St Johns when he came away – That he does not believe they Would be brought to St John's till the Timber of the Vessels was brought up, which was framed at Chamblee & they were employed in bringing it to St Johns two Days before the Deponent came away. – That they had about thirty or forty Carriages employed in the Work & expected a great Many more the next Day, & thought to get the Timber there in four or five Days . . . That the keel of one of the Vessels was between fifty three & fifty four feet long, & that of the other between fifty five and fifty six & that they are to be built between the Fortifications. – That there were between fifty and sixty Carpenters and this Deponent supposes, the Vessels are well advanced by this Time and they are to mount sixteen or eighteen Guns each, the most of them twelve Pounders. . . .

Sworn second Day of August 1775. Before me Ph: Schuyler Judge.

1. Papers CC, 153, I, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, 9 ho. A.M., August 2, 1775

A Letter from John Dennis, Chairman of the Committee of New Brunswick, in answer to the Letter of the Committee of Safety of the 21st ult., was read, and is in the words following, to wit:

[John Dennis's letter of July 27, 1775.]

Mr. [Isaac] Low moved that this Congress make a Resolution in the words following, to wit:

In Provincial Congress, August 2, 1775

Whereas it appeared to the Committee of Safety, appointed by this Congress during their late recess, that a Boat belonging to His Majesty's Ship *Asia*, was without any provocation attacked, and most wantonly destroyed: And whereas, the Corporation of this City had, under the sanction of the said Committee, ordered another Barge to be built, in order to replace the Barge so destroyed as aforesaid: And whereas, this Congress had approved of that and the other conduct of their said Committee, and voted them their thanks for their faithful services: And whereas, notwithstanding, some disorderly and evil disposed persons did, in the night, destroy and render useless the said Barge, so ordered to be built as aforesaid, by sawing it in pieces: And whereas, the Corporation have since formally applied to this Congress for their direction in the premises:

Resolved, That the perpetrators of the said act are guilty of a high offense and insult against this Congress and the Colony they represent, as endeavouring to contravene the true intent and meaning of their appointment. That they are base violators of the Association subscribed by this Congress, and by them recommended to the adoption of their constituents.

In order, therefore, that the sense of this Congress may be fully known relative to such outrageous acts,

Resolved, That this Resolution be immediately made public, not doubting but that the good inhabitants of this Colony will dully assist and support this Congress in detecting, convicting, and bringing to condign punishment all such factious offenders, as disturbers of the public peace and enemies of their County.

Mr. Low's motion was seconded by Mr. Walton. After some time spent in consideration thereof,

Ordered, That the further consideration thereof be postponed till Friday morning next.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 97, 98.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

(No 30) The *Otter* Sloop of War in Elizabeth River by Norfolk 2d
(Duplicate) August 1775

My Lord Since my last of the 12th of July the delegates of this Colony held a Convention in Richmond at the falls of the James River on the 17th of last

Month, where they resolved to raise 3000 Infantry and three troops of Horse for the defence of the lower parts of this Colony and I am likewise informed that one hundred men are to be raised in each of the upper counties who are to hold themselves in readiness to March when called upon, and they propose emitting three hundred thousand Pounds in paper Currency for the payment of these troops, and those that were out under my Command last year against the Indians, they have laid their hands on all the publick Monies in the Receiver and Auditor Generals Offices, also on that in the Post Masters and Naval Officers, to a considerable amount; they have also prohibited the exportation of all sorts of Provisions from the 5th of this Month, which has given great disgust to many of their own party who had purchased great quantities of Grain which they meant to have exported before the 10th of September the time appointed by the General Congress the Merchants of Norfolk have petitioned the Convention for further time, but with what Success is not known.

Tho' the proceedings of the General Congress do not transpire, I have every reason to believe that they have ordered an Army to be immediately raised (Stiled the Continental Army) they have also appointed a Treasury and are to emit a very large Sum of paper Money, which is to have Currency all over the Continent; the Congress is to be the Legislative body, the executive power is in the Council of Safety a General Committee is to act as Law Courts, in short they have now established a New Government at Philadelphia, and indeed our Provincial Convention openly disavow all Allegiance to His Majesty or his Parliament.

His Majesty's Ship the *Mercury* being arrived and the *Fowey* ordered to proceed to Boston and the *Mercury* not having accomodation for me on board I have been obliged to Press a Ship for my own place of Residence, and she is now fitting up for my reception under the Guns of the two Men of War. The troops I sent for to St Augustine arrived last Night about Seventy in Number including Officers, (which has been the cause of many expresses from this to the Convention;) this is a very small reinforcement considering the Situation of this distracted Country, but I am still perswaded was I speedily supplied with a few hundred more, with Arms Ammunition and the other requisites of War, and with full powers to act that I could in a few months reduce this Colony to perfect Submission; I received by the Vessell which brought the troops the inclosed dispatches* from Mr. [Patrick] Tonym which I am happy to have so early an opportunity of transmitting to the Lordship as he informs me they are *of the very utmost importance*.

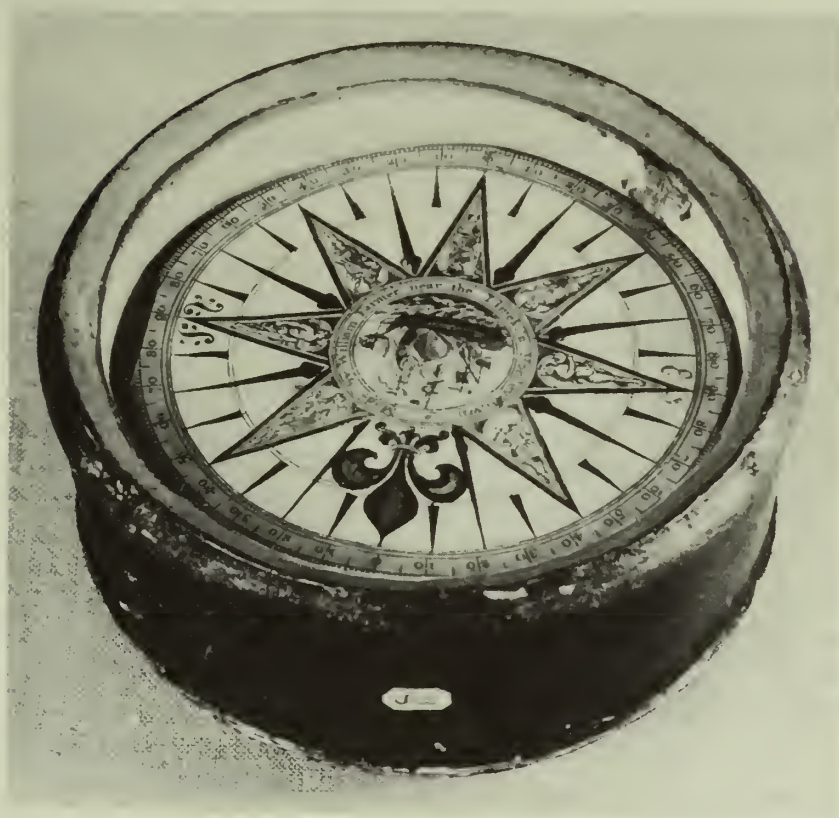
I transmit to your Lordship the Minutes of Council from the 20th of April 1774 to the 17th of June following, also the Account of His Majesty's revenue of 2/ per hogshead with the Naval returns to the 25th of April, which probably will be the last for some time. I am &c.

Dunmore

*supposed to be with the origl of this Letter ²

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/1353, 459-461, LC Transcript.

2. The original of Dunmore's letter, with the enclosures, was lost when the vessel carrying them to England went down in a storm off the Scilly Islands.



(Top) *Universal Equinoctial Ring Dial, 1774.* (Bottom) *Mariner's Compass, c. 1750.*

HOLT'S *Virginia Gazette*, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1775

Norfolk, August 2.

This town and neighbourhood have been much disturbed lately with the elopement of their negroes, owing to a mistaken notion which has unhappily spread amongst them, of finding shelter on board the men of war in this harbor, notwithstanding the assurances given by the commanding officers, that not the least encouragement should be shewn them.

On Friday last, [July 28] a deputation from the Common-hall of this borough, waited upon the Captains [John] M'Cartney and [Matthew] Squires of the men of war now lying here, with the thanks of the Corporation for their conduct, in discountenancing the runaway slaves that have made application for service on board.

On Monday last [July 31] arrived here from St. Augustine, about sixty soldiers, on board the sloop tender sometime since belonging to Mr. Bowdoin, of the Eastern shore. These with about forty more, which are hourly expected, are to compose a body-guard for his Excellency the Governor, at his intended place of residence, on board the ship *William*.

The troops above-mentioned are under the command of a Captain and two Lieutenants: the Ensign, it is said, is on his way over land. The Committee of this borough, early on yesterday morning, despatched an express to the Honorable the Convention of the colony, now sitting at Richmond, informing them of the arrival of the troops above-mentioned.

DANIEL DESAUSSURE TO HENRY LAURENS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Sir

Beaufort 2d August 1775.

In consequence of your directions, I sent Express to Savannah & the Letter for the Council of Safety was delivered, and the Inclosed sent me to be forwarded, I Received it yesterday morning, and as I doubt whether its Contents are of such a Consequence as to need an Express, I declined sending one in hopes an opportunity woud offer soon, which does this day; I have to Inform you Capt. [Clement] Lampriere set Sail from here on Monday forenoon [July 31], and in all probability got over the Barr this afternoon, Capt [John] Joyner with a few Volunteers from here, went with him ² – Inclosed is an accot due me which you will please to order payment to my partner Mr Josiah Smith, there is another accot due me for Sundrys Supplied Capt Joyner & Capt. [John] Barnwell on the first Expedition,³ but the accot is given in to Capt Joyner who will Render it amongst the others – I am with Esteem Sir [&c.]

D: DeSaussure

1. Laurens Collection, No. 29, Letters of the Council of Safety, SCHS.

2. In the sloop *Commerce*.

3. To Georgia to share in the powder seized upon the ship *Phillipa*, Capt. Richard Maitland.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775 [Off Georgia Coast]

Aug. 2. Sailed out of Tybee, with the wind at South; turned to windward: at
meridian observed in latitude 31 deg. 45 min.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

GEORGE JAMES BRUERE, GOVERNOR OF BERMUDA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

No 19

Bermuda August the 2d 1775

My Lords Your Lordship, and the Lords of Trade and plantations, will receive
by the Brig *Porgy*, Allen Kirkpatrick Master, Eight Acts of Assembly, for His
Majestys Royal Approbation or Dissallowance. the Remarks on those Acts,
have been Dispatched to your Lordship, which I hope you will have Received.

The best Conveyance at present will be, via Barbados or Antigua as my last
letters Received by way of South Carolina, had been opened by the Committee
of Inspection at South Carolina, and it is Said that all letters Addressed to Gov-
ernors are opened there.

I hope your Lordship will have received my letter No 8.² And I likewise
Hope that such of these eight Acts of Assembly, as may meet with His Majestys
Royal Approbation, may be Dispatched by the return of the Brig *Porgy* Allen
Kirkpatrick master. I sent five Acts of Assembly months agoe via New York

I have the Honor to be My Lords [&c.]

George Jas Bruere

P S His Majestys Mandamus for Mr Hinson to be of the Council in Bermuda
is come to Hand.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 37/36, 808.

2. Probably meant Letter No. 18 of July 31, 1775.

3 Aug.

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO VICE ADMIRAL
SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Halifax August 3d 1775

Sir, Your favour of the 26th July last I have received and am greatly obliged
to your Excellency for the care you have taken to protect the Trade of this
Province.

The Report of this Pirate cruising in the Bay of Fundy has retarded the
Provision Vessels there for sometime, but I shall immediately give Notice at
those Ports of the precautions you have taken for their Protection and safety,
and I am persuaded that the Vessels you have sent to Cruise in the Bay, will
discourage the people of the Eastern parts of New England, from attempting
to carry into Execution, their premeditated design of making a Descent on this
Province, which would have been of Fatal Consequence.

(Signed) Fran^s Legge

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

MASTER'S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Canceaux*¹

Remarks on Thursday the 3d Augt 1775

[P.M.] Spoke the Chace she proved to be the *Elisabeth* belonging to Newberry from haver de gras in Ballast She had no Provision on board Spaired her Bread Pork & Rum 5 of her Men enter'd on board² Mode & Clear Wear Lattd obsd 43°39' N

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1637.

2. *Ibid.* The *Canceaux* had cleared Halifax the previous day and began the chase around noon, identifying her quarry as a brig. The five men were, of course, impressed from the *Elisabeth*.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1775

Cambridge, August 3.

Last Monday Morning [July 31] about 800 Men, went from Roxbury to the Spot where the Light House lately stood, where they found 40 of the Enemy, twenty-eight Soldiers, and 12 Tory Carpenters and Labourers, who were sent from Boston to erect a Building for fixing up Lights. Our People, before they surrendered, killed four of them (among whom it is said was a Lieutenant) and took the Rest Prisoners, being 24 Regulars, and the 12 Workmen with the Loss of one Man on our Side. The same Day the whole Number were brought to Head-Quarters in this Town, and the following day sent off to Worcester.

MAJOR BENJAMIN TUPPER TO BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES,
CAMBRIDGE¹

Sir I am now Able to give a more perticular accoumpt of the Expedition to the Light-house than when I saw you before, I find by examination that we killed Six persons on the spot one of which was A Leiut that we have 5 merines and one Torey in the Hospital that one Died of his wounds before he arrived to Roxbury that one women & a Lad is still at Dorchester, so that ading the 15, above mentioned to 38 which General [Artemus] Ward sent over to Cambridge makes 53 killd & taken. Majr [John] Crane with his field piece which was planted on Nantasket Beach to cover our retreat Sunk one of their Boats, and probably killd sundry of their crews as the Enemy approchd within 200 yards – on our side we lost one man only, had two just graizd with Balls, we stove one of our Boats & was obledgd to leave it, we lost seven small arms part of which were lost in Landing, as the rocks were very steep some of the party slipt in & let go their guns to save themselves and we have 25 small arms and Accutriments brought off with us and concive there were more taken but have been secreted by some of the party

The above is as just and Exact accoumpt as I am able to give who am your &c.

Aug the 3 AD 1775

Benj Tupper

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Thursday, August 3, 1775

The Report of the Committee appointed to consider the situation of the Eastern parts of the Colony was again read, and accepted, and is as follows: viz.

Whereas it is necessary for the safety of this Colony, and the protection of the eastern parts of it in particular, that an additional force should be stationed in the County of Lincoln, to defend the Country from the inroads of our enemies and prevent their plundering the inhabitants of their Cattle, Sheep, Wood, &c., in order to supply the Fleet and Troops at Boston:

Therefore, *Resolved*, That the honourable Board be, and hereby are desired to direct Captain James Curtis's Company, lately arrived at the Camp in Cambridge, from Brunswick, to repair immediately to Deer Island with six Whale Boats, and when arrived there, to be under the direction of some person who may be appointed by the honourable Board. And the Committee of Supplies are hereby directed to supply Captain Curtis with two months' allowance of Provisions for his said Company.

And it is hereby Resolved, That the Officers and Soldiers of said Curtis's Company shall receive forty Shillings advance pay, on their being mustered; and the honourable Board are desired to appoint some persons to muster them as soon as may be, and also, that some person or persons be appointed to muster the other two Companies as soon as raised.

And it is further Resolved, That there be two other Companies of fifty-nine Men each, including Officers, immediately raised for the purpose aforesaid; and that it be recommended to the honourable Board to appoint a Committee to deliver out enlisting orders to such persons as the Committee may see fit. And the honourable Board are hereby desired to appoint some suitable person to order and direct the said Companies, in the said County of Lincoln, as they shall think will most promote the interest and safety of the Colony.

And be it further Resolved, That the Committee who may be appointed by the honourable Board to give out inlisting Orders, be impowered and directed to procure, or cause to be procured, eight other Whale Boats, for the use of the said Forces; and if such Boats cannot be readily provided, the said Committee are hereby impowered to draw an order on the Hon. Jedediah Preble, Esq., and the Hon. Enoch Freeman, Esq., of Falmouth, for the Boats they have been building; who are hereby directed to deliver the same to such order accordingly, and charge them to the Colony, and immediately to cause as many more to be built at the expence of the Colony, for the use of the Forces stationed in the County of Cumberland.

And the honourable Board are likewise desired to give instructions to the Commanding Officer in said County of Lincoln to order that Fort Pownal, at Penobscot, be immediately demolished.

[Endorsed] In Council, August 3, 1775. Read and concurred.

Order'd That Mr Bryant, Capt Goodman and Coll Cutt with such as the Honble Board shall join be a Committee to examine Mr Edward Parry who has been brought from Georgetown to this Court in consequence of a Resolve of the late Provincial Congress of the 26 June last – & report what is best to be done with him Sent up for Concurrence

August 3d 1775

Jas: Warren Speaker

[Endorsed] In Council read & concurred, & Mr Lincoln and Mr Chauncey are joined.

1. Mass. Arch., House Journal and vol. 137, 39.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

(Copy)

Boston 3d August 1775.

Sir I am to acknowledge your Letter of the 1st Instant, and observe what you say regarding the Removal of the *Symmetry*; You are the best Judge whether she with your Lieutenant to Command her, or the *Scorpion* (which I am told has no cover) will be of most use in her Situation, untill you have a Twenty Gun Ship to put in her Station, but you will consider that the *Symmetry* is a hired Ship, in the Service of Government and the Owner should not have cause to Complain that she has received Damage in a Service She is not hired for, and for which reason the Officer must be Answerable for every thing belonging to her.

I can't pretend to interfere in your Department, or to give any Orders in a Service of which I have little knowledge, and you so well acquainted with

I am with Regard and Esteem. Sir &ca.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU, COMMANDING¹

August 1775

Block Isld NE BE 3 Ms

Thursday 3

Ar 5 A M Weighed Came to Sl At 7 fired 2 Guns to Bring too A Sloop Spoke her from New Haven wth Cattle sent An Officer & 4 Men on Bd her² Carried away the Sprit Sl Yd Fresh Breezes & fair Wr At 2 P M spoke H M S *Rose* & *Swann*

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

2. The sloop *Polly*, Samuel Perkins, master, for Barbadoes. She was condemned and sold in August in Boston, Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Lebanon] Thursday 3d Augt 1775

After further consultation about the armed vessels &c., the following bill and resolve was prepared and pass'd, viz:

Whereas the General Assembly of this Colony at their session in July last, resolved that two armed vessels of suitable burden be immediately fitted out and

be armed with a proper number of cannon, swivel-guns and small arms, and furnished with necessary warlike stores and well officered and manned, for the defence of the sea coasts in this Colony, under the care and direction of his Honor the Governor and Committee of Council appointed to assist him in the recess of the General Assembly, who are thereby authorized and directed to procure, furnish and employ the same accordingly:

In pursuance of said resolve and direction, the Governor and Committee aforesaid having taken all proper steps and care to find how and in what manner the said resolve may be most properly carried into execution, are of opinion, that a certain brig, called the *Minerva*, belonging to Capt. [William] Griswold and now lying in Connecticut River at Rocky Hill, is one proper vessel to be employed for the service aforesaid, and do therefore agree and resolve, to take up and employ said brig in the service of this Colony as aforesaid, during such term as said Assembly or this Committee shall find needful to employ her in said service; and do hereby appoint Titus Hosmer and Ezekial Williams, Esqrs and Cap. Giles Hall, a committee to take up and retain said brig in the service aforesaid, to finish the contract for the hire and charter of said brig and execute proper writings, to cause the same to be justly apprized with all her furniture and tackle proper to be retained and used as an armed vessel and make a proper inventory thereof. And the said committee are further directed and impowered to furnish, procure and provide all necessary additional sails rigging and furniture and also all proper and necessary ship-stores and provisions, and furnish from the Colony stores, as far as may be, the necessary cannon, swivels, small arms, pistols, shot, powder, &c. &c., taking further needful directions from time to time from his Honor the Governor and said Committee.

And the Committee of the Pay-Table are hereby directed to draw on the Treasurer of this Colony in favor of said committee for such sums of money as they shall find necessary to enable them to accomplish the service aforesaid; and they to render their account of their disposition and disbursement thereof to the General Assembly, or to the Governor and said Committee.

At the same time &c. The Governor and Council having concluded to take up and employ the brig *Minerva*, belonging to Cap. Griswold, for an armed vessel &c. according to Act of Assembly &c, do appoint Cap. Giles Hall to be Captain and Commander of said brig and he to be allowed £7.0.0 P month.

Thos. Horsey, of Derby, to be 1st Lieut., his wages 5.0.0 P month.

James Hopkins	to be 2d Lieutenant, his	wages 4.0.0 P Do.
	to be Master	wages 4.0.0 p do.
	to be Mate	wages 3.0.0 p do.
	to be Gunner	wages 3.0.0 p do.
	to be Gunner's Mate	wages 2.8.0 p do.
	to be Boatswain	wages 3.0.0 p do.
	to be Boatswain's Mate	wages 2.8.0 p do.
Timo. Larrabee	to be Steward	wages 3.0.0 p do.
Sylvanus Backus	to be cook	wages 3.0.0 p do.

to be one carpenter a 60/s. P month, and one pilot, and that said vessel be mann'd with forty seamen and forty soldiers or marines, exclusive of officers, to have and be allowed viz:

the sea men 2.5 p month

and the marines not exceeding 2.0 p month

And Cap. Hall is hereby instructed and directed forthwith to raise said 40 seamen and forty marines or soldiers by voluntary inlistments, and to incourage and ingage forty five shillings per month to the seamen, and not exceeding 40 s. per month to the soldiers or marines during their continuance in said service, and to have one month's pay advanced before they enter into and proceed on any cruise in said service. And said Cap. Giles Hall is hereby appointed Pay Master of said seamen and marines or vessel's crew, and is authorized to draw money out of the Colony treasury for that purpose, in manner as the land-officers are enabled to do, giving sufficient bond with surety as by law provided for paymasters of the troops in the land service. And his Honor the Governor is hereby desired to give proper commissions and warrants to the necessary officers on board said vessel.

At the same time pass'd the following Instructions to Titus Hosmer, Ezl Williams, Esqrs and Cap. Giles Hall, a committee, &c.

Gent: The Governor and Committee of Safety (by a subcommittee) have agreed with Cap. Griswold, owner of the Brig *Minerva*, to charter said brig for the use of the Colony as an armed vessel, at the rate of 4s.L.M. per month per ton, with condition that if we should charter any other vessel at the same rate, for which we must furnish more sails or rigging than will be necessary for his, the interest of the expence of furnishing the other with sails &c. more than will be requisite for said brig is to be allowed to said Griswold in addition to said four shillings. That said brig be apprizd by indifferent good judges, with all the requisite tackle and furniture at our receiving her, and an inventory thereof be taken, and that whatever betterments shall be made to or on said brig by the Colony shall be received by the owner on her return, if we chuse it, and an allowance be made to him for the full value of such betterments so far as the vessel is rendered more valuable or useful to him; and if any special damage is done to said brig beyond the necessary decay and wear by time, the same to be allowed the owner in addition to the charter-party.

The Colony to risque the vessel.

Said Committee to observe the above agreement. And said Committee are further instructed to employ said Cap. Griswold to do any service in and about the necessary additional rigging and furnishing said brig which [may] be properly done by him, at a reasonable price beyond what may be best done by Cap. Hall and his men.

Said committee are further instructed and desired to enquire and look out and recommend to us proper persons for the following offices, viz. master and mate, gunner and gunner's mate, boatswain and boatswain's mate and carpenter.

Copy of the 3 foregoing given, &c.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Liberty*¹

[Crown Point, Lake Champlain]

August the 3d [1775] – at 8 A.M. weighed the Anchor from the Southwest End & proceeded to the Northwest End to the Frenchman's House with the Lieut of the Marines & Sergt to make Discoveries & there meeting with Capt [Remember] Baker who went to Vandelowes the Frenchmans where his two Men were taken Prisoners on his last Cruise, they inform him there is two Schooners will be ready to sail from St Johns in ten Days from this Date mounting sixteen Carriage Guns each, besides Swivels; they are fifty two feet Keel by Good information from the French and Indians who came on board us & desire us to fortify at a Place where the channel is very narrow & runs close into the Shore where no Vessel can pass without passing through said Channel. By Receiving said Information I, with the advice of Capt Baker thought it proper to return with all speed to Your Honor to report, having a fine Gale of Wind I immediately weighed Anchor & proceeded towards Crown Point – & arrived there the 4th August at 4 oclock P.M. 1775. – on Board the Schooner Liberty

James Stewart, Comd Schooner

1. Papers CC, 153, I, NA.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL,
GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT¹

[Extract]

(Copy)

Ticonderoga August 3d 1775

Provision is now coming up with more speed than heretofore; and my fears of being detained on that account are subsided. I continue building Boats; but if the accounts contained in the enclosed affidavits be well founded, and of which we do not seem to entertain the least doubt,² the Enemy's naval strength will be such, as, in all probability, will prevent our getting down the Sorrel River to St Johns, as we suppose their vessels are nearly, if not quite, finished by this time – and although if we had a number of Carpenters and the necessary materials we might soon construct vessels equal to theirs, yet our want of ammunition would render them useless, for after compleating the Troops to a pound a man I shall not have a Ton of Powder left –

The Troops sicken alarmingly fast. Ninety two are now returned ill at this place only where we are about five hundred strong – I wish they had Tents, without which they must suffer incredibly if we should move on.

1. Trumbull Letter Book, ConnSL.

2. Depositions of John Duguid and John Shatford. Shatford's deposition only repeats what Duguid disclosed, and Duguid's is printed under August 2, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Philadelphia] August 3, 1775

Resolved, That the Committee for providing Powder, Arms, &c., be desired to procure from the French or Spanish West Indies, two thousand stand of good Fire Arms.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 298.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION¹

[Richmond] Thursday, August 3, 1775

A letter from the committee of the borough of Norfolk, informing the Convention of the arrival of troops from St. Augustine, about sixty in number, under the command of one captain and two lieutenants; that they had learned, from good authority, another vessel, with more forces, might be hourly expected; that at present they were under no apprehensions from the troops, but found exceeding bad effects among the slaves from the neighbourhood of the men of war, which they had reason to believe would be very much increased by the arrival of these troops.

Also, a letter from the officers of the volunteer companies in Williamsburg, requesting that some certain line for their conduct might be laid down, lest in their zeal to serve their country, they might precipitate their countrymen into unnecessary calamities; informing the Convention that the governor's cutter had carried off a number of slaves belonging to private gentlemen, and that they thought it high time to establish the doctrine of reprisal . . .

Resolved, That the said letters be referred to the committee appointed to take into consideration the state of the Colony.

1. *The Proceedings of the Convention of Delegates for the Counties and Corporations in the Colony of Virginia, held at Richmond Town in the County of Henrico* (Richmond, 1816), 9. Hereafter cited as *Va. Conv.*

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce*
BY CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER¹

1775 [Off Georgia Coast]

Aug. 3 Still plying to windward, with the wind at South; latitude observed 31 28.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM PACKWOOD TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

My dear frind

Cap Nicola Mole August the 3 1775 -

These will in form you that I arovd hear the first Instant from the Porte of Lugan [Leogane] wass 18 days abstant from My Vessel & have traveld to the different pourts to Vztt Pettet Govrner [Petit Goave] Lugan Poart Au Prince Jackermall [Jacmel] Locores St Lucy & have only Purchast 5000 lb of powder which is pistel powder all that part of this Island is Securd by the Franckmen Which that carry to the [blurred]. I brought franck papers oup from Poart Au Prince, made the *Macaroni* a franck bottom, & She Saled the 2d Instant for the Winderd part of this Island in quest of powder and if it is not to be Obtained shall come home with wat I have I woud a gon to france but thear is a stopedg of powder thear I can not dispose of our candels on Act of the quantey being hear your interest is in a bad Siteation at Lugan a Villen [illegible] Shall write you Varey partickler in 3 days rember me to my dear wife & children brother & your spous & famely your frind & faithfull Servt

W^m Packwood

P S our powder from 3/6 to 3/9d that is purchast if aney to be had at windwd is much dearer horses in great Demand moleses at 30 livers

I could a had the kings Stoar opend at Gaudloope but sold at 130 Johannes pr thousand & ould Cannon powder, no Strunkt what I have got is the rearl thing I wish to my Sould you had it with you delay is dangerous you may look out for me in a month Varey Stroung

1. Shaw Collection, Packet No. 3, YUL.

CAPTAIN HENRY BRYNE, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG ¹

Sir. *Pomona* English Harbour Antigua the 3d August 1775

Having Cruised with His Majesty's Sloop under my Command off St. Croix agreeable to your directions of the 10th June last, inclosing an anonymous Letter; setting forth there was a Combination between that Place and the British Colonies of America, and that he (the Writer) was informed they had Shipped from that Place to America, a quantity of Gun Powder and Ammunition; – I am to acquaint you it was wrote by George Cummerford, who proves to be a Lunatick and there is no foundation in his representation: The Governor of St Croix declares there neither has been, nor will he suffer any to be shipped from thence, am likewise to acquaint you there was a Schooner arrived at that place in order to procure Gun Powder for America, offering any Money for the purchase, but being acquainted the Governor had issued a Proclamation forbidding the exportation of the same, and learning we were Cruising off that place, she sailed again in three hours without shipping any one Article, but could not be informed where she was destined. I am Sir [&c.]

Hen^y Bryne

1. PRO, Admiralty, 1/309.

4 Aug.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND ¹

Sir: Camp at Cambridge, August 4, 1775

I am Yesterday favored with yours of the 31st July; We have yet no certain Accounts of the Fleet which Sail'd out of Boston the 25th; but if our Conjectures and Information are just we may expect to hear of it every Hour. I am now, Sir, in strict Confidence to acquaint you, that our Necessities in the Articles of Powder and Lead are so great as to require an immediate Supply. I must earnestly intreat you will fall upon some Measures to forward every Pound of each in the Colony which can possibly be spared; It is not within the Propriety of Safety of such a Correspondence to say which I might on this Subject; It is sufficient that the Case calls loudly for the most strenuous Exertions of every friend of his Country and does not admit of the least delay. No Quantity, however Small, is beneath notice and should any arrive, I beg it may be forwarded as soon as Possible; But a Supply of this kind is so precarious, not only from the Danger of the Enemy, but the opportunity of Purchasing, that I have resolved in my mind every other possible chance, and listned to every proposition on the

subject which could give the smallest Hope; Among others I have had one mentioned which has some Weight with me, as well as the General Officers to whom I have proposed it one Harris is lately come from Bermuda, where there is a very considerable Magazine of Powder in a remote Part of the Island and the Inhabitants well disposed not only to our Cause in General, but to assist in this Enterprize in particular; we understand there are two Armed Vessels in your Province commanded by Men of known Activity and Spirit; one of which it is proposed to despatch on this Errand, with such other assistance as may be required; Harris is to go along as the Conductor of the Enterprize, and to avail ourselves of his knowledge of the Island, but without any Command. I am very sensible that at first view the project may appear hazardous and its Success must depend on the Concurrence of many Circumstances; but we are in a Situation which requires us to run all Risques. No Danger is to be considered when put in Competition with the Magnitude of the Cause and the Absolute Necessity we are under of increasing our Stock. Enterprises, which appear Chimerical, often prove successful from that very Circumstance, Common Sense & Prudence will Suggest Vigilance and care, when the Danger is Plain and obvious, but where little Danger is apprehended, the more the enemy is unprepared and consequently there is the fain'd Prospect of Success.

Mr. Brown² has been mentioned to me as a very Proper Person to consult upon this Occasion you will judge of the Propriety of communicating it to him in Part or the whole, and as soon as possible, favor me with your Sentiments and the Steps you may have taken to forward it. If no immediate and safe Opportunity offers you will please to do it by Express. Should it be inconvenient to part with one of the armed Vessels, perhaps some other might be fitted out, or you could devise some other Mode of executing this Plan; so that, in case of a Disappointment, the Vessel might proceed to some other Island to purchase . . .

Since writing the above Col. [Elisha] Porter has undertaken to assist in the Matter, or to provide some suitable Person to accompany Harris to you, who will communicate all Circumstances to you. I am &c.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 385–388.

2. Either Nicholas or John Brown, merchants of Providence.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT OF THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Extract]

Camp at Cambridge, August 4, 1775.

. . . The other [skirmish] happened at the Light House; A Number of Work men having been sent down to repair it, with a Guard of 32 Marines and a Subaltern. Major [Benjamin] Tupper, last Monday Morning [July 31] about 2 o'Clock landed there with about 300 Men Attack'd them killed the Officer and 4 Privates, the remainder thereof, [3 of] which are badly wounded he brought off Prisoners with 10 Tories, all of whom are on their Way to Springfield Gaol. But being detained by the Tide, on his Return, he was Attack'd by several Boats, but happily got thro' with the loss of one Man killed and another Wounded.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 394, which omits the number of enemy wounded as shown between brackets (Number in Papers CC I, 51, NA).

JAMES WARREN TO SAMUEL ADAMS¹

[Extract]

Watertown, Aug. 4th, 1775

. . . The People at Machias, an obscure small Town in the Eastermost parts of this Colony, you may remember some time ago took two Sloops from one [Ichabod] Jones (a dog) and a Tender. they have now taken another Tender without the loss of a man, and among other things with ten bbls. powder and £50 sterling in Cash.² in this way they will be a Maritime Power. they Bid as fair for it as Charthage in the days of Queen Dido, and almost as much so as England in the days of Queen Bess. We may be able another Year to Convey the Delegates to Philadelphia (if they Choose to go by water) against the Navy of Britain.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, II, 417, 418.2. H.M. Schooner *Diligent*, Lieutenant John Knight.GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

(Copy)

Boston 4th August 1775/

Sir, I have just received a Letter from General [William] Howe, who reports that he is in extreme want of the Boats, and the Assistance of the Caulker. I had the Honor to mention to you last Sunday [July 30]; neither of which are yet sent to him; I shall therefore be obliged to you to Order them to him as soon as possible, as he is very Anxious for them.

I am with great Regard and Esteem. Sir, &ca.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

CAPTAIN EDWARD LECRAS, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

Sir,

Somerset at Boston 4 August 1775

As there is Reason to apprehend the Rebels have some Intention against the Kings Ships in this Harbour, from the number of Whale Boats that have appeared on different parts for some nights past, attended with some Sloops which may be fitted as fire Vessels; I think it my Duty to acquaint you that his Majs. Ship under my Command is in a very weak state of Defence, for want of men, from the number which are lent out of her upon different Services, several sick on board, and others at the Hospital. I have &c.

E. LeCras

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 166, MassHS Transcript.

CAPTAIN BRODERICK HARTWELL R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

Sir,

Boyne Boston Harbour Augt 4, 1775

I have been informed by Captain [Thomas] Bishop of the *Lively* that last night he observed forty Whale Boats, with three large Boats masted and in Appearance Fire Boats, lying near Moon Island. I think it my duty on this occasion to state a particular Account of the number of men belonging to his Majesty's Ship under my Command who are doing duty at Boston, which with these lent in armed Schooners, sick aboard and at the Hospital, our late loss at the Lighthouse,

and short of Complement, reduces our numbers so much that I am obliged to beg that you will take into your serious consideration what the consequences may be, should the Rebels endeavour to burn the *Boyne*, (which I think is far from being improbable) considering she lies out of the way of any ready assistance from the rest of the Squadron, and the Rebels may be acquainted with her condition from the prisoners taken at the Lighthouse. I have &c.

Brod^k Hartwell

State of the *Boynes* Company on the 4th of August 1775 at Boston

Complement made up when she left England	520		
Marines			
Disembarked at Boston	70		
Taken at the Lighthouse	16	86	
	—		
Seamen			
To the Scows	52		
Sent to armed Schooners	13		
Sick on Board	25		
on Shore	5		
	—	30	
Short of Complement	12		
Chaplain & Servant absent	2	109	195
	—	—	—
Total on board fit for Service, Officers & Servants included	325		

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 167, 168, MassHS Transcript.

FISHING PASS ISSUED BY VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Fishing } By Samuel Graves Esqr Vice Admiral of the White &ca —
Pass }

Thos Sparks The five Men named in the Margin are hereby al-
Thos Whaples lowed to Fish, in the Schooner *Catherine*, with Liberty
Henry Atkins to procure their Bait at Apple Island

Frans Tobey

Nickerson

This Pass to remain with the Vessel —

To The Respective Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels ² at Boston

Dated at Boston the 4th. August 1775

1. Otis Collection, CUL.

2. This document was taken along with Sparks at Wellfleet in September. See Elisha Cobb to Joseph Otis, September 7, 1775. Accompanying it was a permit signed by three members of the Royal Council addressed to the officer commanding the main guard.

WHEREAS we the Subscribers have broke the Association of the late Continental Congress, by unloading a Part of the Cargo from on board the Ship Beulah; we do declare that we are sorry for the Offence we gave the Publick thereby, and that we will for the future strictly adhere to the said Association, and to the further Orders of the Continental Congress, the Provincial Congress of the Colony of New-York, and the General Committee of Association for the City and County of New-York, saving to Robert Murray (who is one of the People called QUAKERS) his religious Principles. Dated at New-York, the 9th of June, 1775.

Robert Murray,
John Murray.

To the PUBLIC.

IThe Subscriber, Abraham H. Van Vleck, of the City of New-York, Merchant, knowing that I have committed a most atrocious Crime against my Country, by contravening one of the Recommendations of the Honourable Continental Congress, in Shipping Provisions to Nantucket, and being heartily desirous of extenuating my Crime by any Means in my Power, (tho' I am convinced at the same Time, that no pecuniary Gift, or any Submissions whatever, on the Part of an Individual of the Community, can atone for an Offence committed against the same) I do hereby without the least Compulsion, make a free and voluntary Gift of the Sloop Henry, and her Cargo, to Messrs. Isaac Sears, Oliver Templeton, Edward Fleming, and Daniel Phoenix, in Trust, for the Benefit and Advantage of the Poor of this City, giving, and granting, to the said Gentlemen, full Power, and Authority to dispose of the same in any Manner, as they may think best for the Advantage of the Poor; and if I can in any other Manner give further Satisfaction to the Public, I shall gladly embrace the Opportunity: I do not expect that my Fellow Citizens will take me immediately into Favour, but that they would so far condescend, as to let me pass unmolested;—As to my unhappy Family, I hope the good People of New-York have too much Humanity to punish the Innocent with the Guilty.

I am the Publick's

Most Afflicted Servant,

Abraham H. Van Vleck.

New-York, August 4th, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Veneris, 9 ho., A.M. August 4, 1775

Ordered, That the consideration of the resolutions moved by Mr. [Isaac] Low on Wednesday, the second inst. with respect to the insult offered to this Congress by destroying the boat ordered to be built for the use of His Majesty's Ship *Asia*, and which was appointed for this day, be taken into consideration to-morrow morning.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 100, 101.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, August 4th [1775].

Resolved That Colo. [John] Dickinson, Colo. [Daniel] Roberdeau & Col. [John] Cadwalader, enquire of the Associators who have the Provincial Muskets in their hands, if they are willing to enter into the service of this Province, on Board the Boats to be employed for the defence thereof. If they refuse, then that they be desired to deliver the said Arms to their respective Colonels, for the use of those Men that may enter into the said Service.

Resolved, That Mr. Samuel Wheeler make 100 Pikes, to be made use of on Board the different Boats, agreeable to the pattern produced to this Board.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 298.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION OF PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY,
MARYLAND ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee of Observation for Prince Georges County at the house of Richard Carnes in Piscataway on Friday the 4th day of August 1775 . . .

In consequence of its being Recommended by the Provincial Convention to the General Committee of Observation for the County aforesaid to call all evidences before them who may be expected can give the proper information respecting a Report that prevails of Mr. Christopher Lowndes having cleared out a Brigg from this Province for Barbadoes with Provisions, that were thrown into the hands of some of the Officers of his Majestys Ships of War for the purpose of Supplying the Army under the Command of General [Thomas] Gage; this Committee Summoned before them Mr. John Tolson aged sixteen Years and of good Reputation, who being sworn on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God before Luke Marbury one of the Right Honble the Lord Proprietarys Justices of the peace for Prince Georges County, Deposeth and sayeth, that on or about the Twentieth day of May last he sail'd from Alexandria on Board the Brigg *Harriot* Captain William Scott belonging to the said Christopher Lowndes, and that he Went Passenger on Board of her to the Island of Barbadoes, where she discharged her Cargoe and that to his the said Deponants knowledge she did not discharge or dispose of any part of it till she arrived in the Road of Barbadoes,

and that no part of the Said Cargoe was putt into the hands of any officer of his Majestys Ships of War for the purpose of supplying them or the Army under the command of General Gage –

This Deponant likewise sayeth that in Hampton Road, on their way out they were boarded by some people who said, they belonged to a Vessel of War who took one of the Hands from the Said Brigg, and this Deponant sayeth no more

Signed John Tolson

Sworn before Luke Marbury

Ordered that a Copy of these Proceedings be sent to the Provincial Convention now sitting at Annapolis

True Copy, from the Records, signed by order of the Committee

Thomas Clagett, Clerk

1. Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*, XI, 39, 40.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION ¹

[Annapolis] Friday 4th August [1775]

It being represented to this Convention that Mr William Neale is prosecuting a scheme for importing about two Hundred Barrels of Powder, and that he is willing to dispose of the same to the Public on its arrival, at the Rate of sixteen pounds common money per Hundred:

Resolved, that on the delivery of 200 Barrels of good Gun powder, or any less quantity, by the said William Neale, he be paid therefore at the said Rate, out of the Bills of Credit to be issued by the Convention: And further that if the said William Neale will import and deliver good and substantial Musquets, Bayonets & accoutrements, for arming any number, not exceeding five Hundred Soldiers, then on the delivery of them he shall be paid a generous price therefor, out of the said Bills of Credit.

Resolved That this Convention will replace any arms or powder or lead that may be delivered to the order of Messrs Samuel Purviance Junior, William Smith and David Stewart, or any two of them, by the people of Bermuda; or will pay the just and full value thereof at farthest, as soon as American shall be in a settled State.

Resolved, That if any persons will lend and advance to the Public any sums of money not exceeding in the whole four thousand pounds common money, and will pay the same into the hands of Messrs. Purviance, Smith & Stewart, to be by them laid out in the purchase and importation of Gunpowder and good substantial musquets, Bayonets, and accoutrements for Soldiers for the use of this Province, the Lenders shall be repaid their money out of the Bills of Credit to be issued, or if Bills of Exchange shall be lent, then the same shall be repaid in the same manner as the other loans of Bills of Exchange to this Convention.

1. Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*, XI, 10, 11.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1775

Williamsburg, August 4.

Lord Dunmore reviewed his 60 body-guardsmen, lately arrived from St. Augustine, last Tuesday, [August 1] at Gosport and we hear, that he daily expects an additional reinforcement, of 40 more soldiers, from the same place. His Lordship it is said, as soon as they arrive, and when joined by the marines from the *Mercury* and *Otter* men of war, and a number of other *select friends* in different places, intends coming round to York town; from whence, if not prevented, it is likely he will pay us a visit in this city, although he cannot expect the same cordial reception as on former occasions, but will probably be received with *such illuminations, &c.* as may make him forget his way to the palace. The good people of Virginia now consider Lord Dunmore as their *mortal enemy*, and will no longer brook the many gross insults they have received from him, which are daily repeated; and the *damn'd shirtmen*, as they are emphatically called by some of his minions, it is more than probable, will make some rue, before long, their ill-timed, base, and ungenerous conduct.

The men of war's officers, we are credibly informed, have been guilty of many outrages, both at Norfolk and Portsmouth; which ungentle behaviour lately exposed one of them to the resentment of a certain mr. O'Shields, who drubbed him handsomely.

JAMES PARKER TO CHARLES STEWART ¹

[Extract]

[Norfolk] 4 August [1775]

Lord Dunmore remains at Gosport, the *Mercury* and *Mars* [sic!] are with him, he has a ship fitting up on board of which he will remain till he can get some forces or the times alter, he is most unjustly and ungenerously used in this colony, to serve which he risked his life and has really its good very much at heart. He has lately had 60 soldiers from St. Augustine and expects 40 more daily, they are part of the 14th Regt which were at the Negroe hunt at St. Vincent's.²

1. *The Magazine of History*, III, 160. See note under Parker's letter of May 6, 1775, to Stewart.

2. The Carib revolt against British rule in 1773.

ARTHUR MIDDLETON TO WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON ¹

[Extract]

Charles Town Council of Safety, August 4th 1775

I was desired by the Council to intimate to you in a private manner that if it should fall in your way, it would be of publick Utility, were you to scrutinize into the Conduct of Mr [Moses] Kirkland, which according to the Accounts transmitted (I believe before you set out)² bears a very dark and suspicious aspect; an Enquiry may be made in such manner as to give no alarm, & if proper proofs can be come at, it will be highly necessary, when the Time will allow it, to inflict such punishment as his Crimes deserve; as the matter has been represented he has certainly been guilty both of Mutiny & Desertion.³

1. *South Carolina Historical Genealogical Magazine*, XXVII, 118.

2. Drayton, with Rev. William Tennant, was on a mission to the western part of the province, the "Back Country," to induce the inhabitants to sign the association pledging themselves to the American cause.

3. Kirkland's activities will be dwelt with at length in subsequent letters.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775 [Off Georgia Coast]

Aug. 4. Fine settled weather, wind southerly; beating to windward: latitude observed 31 09.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayon, *American Revolution*, I.

5 Aug.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL
CONGRESS ¹

[Postscript]

[Camp at Cambridge] August 5 [1775]

We have Accounts this morning of two Explosions at the Castle, so that its Destruction may now be supposed certain. I have this morning been much alarmed with an Information, that two Gentlemen from Philadelphia, Mr. [Benjamin] Hitchborn and Captain White with Letters for General [Charles] Lee and myself and other Gentlemen have been taken by Captain [James] Ayscough at Rhode Island, and letters intercepted and sent forward to Boston with the Bearers as Prisoners. That the Captain exulted much of the discoveries he had made, and my Informer, who was also in the Boat but released, understood them to be Letters of consequence. I have therefore, dispatch'd the Express immediately back, tho' I had before resolved to detain him 'till [Josiah] Fessenden's return; I shall be anxious till I am relieved from the Suspence I am in, as to the Contents of these Letters.²

It is exceedingly unfortunate that Gentlemen should chuse to travel the only Road on which there is danger. Let the event of this be what it will, I hope it will serve as a general caution against trusting any Letters that way in future. . . .

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 398, 399.

2. The letters were of little consequence, but one, from John Adams to James Warren, spoke of a "piddling genius," who had delayed progress in Congress, and who was easily identified as John Dickinson, of Pennsylvania, with a resultant coolness between Dickinson and Adams.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAMBRIDGE, AUG. 5 [1775]" ¹

Since I wrote you last, our troops have had several skirmishes with the enemy, in all of which we have had the better of them. Three hundred men from our army, under the command of Major [Benjamin] Tupper, were sent to Lighthouse Island, on information being given that the King's troops were rebuilding it; the enemy perceived our people coming, prepared to receive them; our troops were ordered not to fire until they landed, which they did, and went boldly up to the enemy, killed ten or twelve on the spot, among whom was the commanding officer, and took the remainder, about thirty-five in number, demolished the enemy's works, and were preparing to embark, but the tide leaving them, they were obliged to tarry till its return; mean time a large number of boats from the men of war came up in order to reinforce the enemy on the island, and a smart

firing from both parties commenced; our troops however got safely back with their prisoners, with the loss of one man killed, and two or three wounded.

1. *London Chronicle*, October 10 to October 12, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Saturday, August 5, 1775

Whereas it has been represented to this House, that several persons are detained in Boston by General [Thomas] Gage, for the purpose of procuring the release of [Josiah] Jones and [Jonathan] Hicks from Concord Jail, and until they shall be suffered to go into Boston, therefore,

Resolved, That the said Jones and Hicks be released from the Jail at Concord, and suffered to go into Boston, upon condition that the several persons who have been detained on account of their imprisonment, viz: John Gill, Thomas Boylston, Peter Edes, Wm. Starr, James Lovell, Samuel Whitwell, Samuel Partridge, John Leach, Richard Boynton, and all the Selectmen of Boston, and also Benjamin Hitchborne, lately taken on board a Man of War at Newport, be suffered to come out of Boston, with their families and effects; and that the said Jones and Hicks be produced on the lines at Roxbury or Charlestown, at such time as shall be agreed on, in order to be exchanged for the persons aforesaid; and that Mr. John Pitts and Captain Brown of Watertown, with such as the honourable Board shall join, be a Committee to wait on his Excellency General Washington, and desire him to send into Boston a Trumpeter with a copy of this Resolve to the Selectmen of said Town.

[Endorsed] In Council, August 5, 1775; Read and concurred and Mr. Joseph Palmer is joined.

1. Force, Comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 310, 311, from Mass. Arch.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU, COMMANDING ¹

August 1775

Saturday 5. Moored with Springs on our Cables in Chas Town River at ½ past Noon Made the signal for a Pilot who came on board at 1 at ½ past 2 saluted Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves of the White with 15 Guns at 5 came to with the best bower above Charles Town in 6 fm got the stream Anchor to steady her at 9 veered a Cable each way and moored, with the stream Cable for a spring on the small, And a Hawser on the best bower:

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

DIARY OF BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDEDIAH PREBLE ¹

[Roxbury] Sat. Aug. 5th, 1775

We dined very agreeably; after dinner Gen'l [John] Thomas one other Gentleman and myself rode to Dorchester Neck and viewed the lines there, which are within point blank shot of the enemy . . . We then returned to Roxbury,

viewed the Fort and lines there, which are very strong . . . This day there was a conference between Major [Benjamin] Tupper and the Regulars at their lines on the Neck. They told him they could destroy all our seaports. He told them they would do us a great favor, as it would take off our attention from Trade, and put us on agriculture, for we had a fine fertile country, enough to employ millions of people, a land that produced every necessary of life. He also told them we never would submit so long as a man was alive. I supped with the Gen'l and lodged there, had a very good bed to myself and rested well. Major Tupper brought out a letter from Treasurer Gray² to his son Allen Oates . . . There was one other letter from Gen'l Brattle³ . . . He also wrote in his letter that he heard the Port of Boston was quite open, and the Custom House kept in Boston as usual, and that a ship on the 4th of this month brought into Boston two thousand and two hundred Barrels of Flour. . . .

1. George Henry Preble, *Genealogical Sketch of the First Three Generations of Prebles in America* (Boston, 1868), 61, 62. Hereafter cited as Preble, *Prebles in America*.
2. Harrison Gray, Treasurer of the Colony under the Crown, and an ardent Tory.
3. William Brattle, who began as a Son of Liberty and ended as a rabid Tory.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE¹

Sir

Boston Aug 5, 1775

I am sorry to give your Excellency farther trouble to explain what I thought had been clearly expressed in My last letter with respect to the *Symmetry*.

Mr Dickenson Complained that for want of proper Authority he could not perform the Service expected from that Armed Vessel, And your Excellency in your letter Augt 1. by that officer Mentions that you are under the Necessity of ordering her away – In that Case I proposed the *Scorpion* should take her birth, And that until the *Scorpion* Could Come up, I would send a Lieutenant to Command the *Symmetry*, if it was agreeable to your Excellency – I intended Nothing More than to Make the *Symmetry* useful apprehending Authority alone in the officer wanting for that purpose; And Your Excellency I hope will believe that the good of the Service alone dictated that proposal and No desire or wish of mine to interfere in your Excellency's department.

I beg leave however to offer my opinion that the *Symmetry* Might remain as she is Commanded by the Agent, and Supported by the *Scorpion*, until I have it in My power to put a twenty Gun Ship there as I have already promised. I have the honor to be with great respect and regard Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE¹

Sir,

Boston 5th of August 1775

Yesterday I received two Letters from the Captains of His Majs. Ships *Somerset* and *Boyne* – Captain [Broderick] Hartwell says the Night before last forty Whale Boats, and three large Boats with Masts assembled under Moon

GENERAL GAGE'S SOLILOQUY.

Published in New York, by H. Gaine, in August 1775.

Scene, BOSTON, besieged by the Men of Massachusetts.

“ **DESTRUCTION** waits my call—some demon say
Why does destruction linger on her way !
Charlestown is burnt, and Warren is deceas'd—
Heav'ns ! shall we never be from war releas'd ?
Ten years the Greeks besieg'd the walls of Troy,
But when did Grecians their own towns destroy ?
Faith, that's the point—Let those who will, say, No ;
If **GEORGE** and **NORTH** decree—it must be so.

DOUBTS, black as night, disturb my lov'd repose—
Men that were once my friends have turn'd my foes—
What if we conquer this *rebellious town*,
Suppose we burn it, storm it, tear it down—
This land's like *Hydra*, cut off but *one* head,
And *ten* shall rise, and dare you in its stead.
If to subdue a league or two of coast
Requires a navy, and so large a host,
How shall a length of twice seven hundred miles
Be brought to bend to two European Isles ?—

BUT hark the trumpet's clangor—hark—ah me !
What means the march of *Washington* and *Lee* ?
When men like these such distant marches make,
Fate whispers something—that we can't mistake ;
When men like these defy my martial rule,
Good heaven ! it is no time to play the fool—
Perhaps, they for their country's freedom rise ;
North has, perhaps, deceiv'd me with his lies.—

Island; He thinks the Rebels in them will attempt to burn some of the King's Ships, and that they are probably encouraged to such a proceeding from their knowledge how few Men are in them; The Captains, above mentioned, have stated the numbers deficient in their Ships which from debarkations at Boston, Deaths, Sickness, short of Complement, and Men employed in the *Symmetry* and Scows amount to upwards of One hundred and fifty in the *Somerset*, and near two hundred in the *Boyne*.

Things being in this Situation I am under the necessity of acquainting your Excellency, that I think the immediate Safety of His Majesty's Ships require all their People to be Onboard, as their Security and defence, in Case of Attacks, must be in their Boats and Musquetry.

It would give me great Satisfaction therefore if your Excellency could fall upon some other Methods to Man the Scows and *Symmetry*, or in lieu of the Men in these Vessels spare as many Marines to the Men of War.

I beg leave to assure your Excellency that the preservation of the King's Ships alone occasions this Representation, and that however you may determine I shall invariably continue to afford You every assistance in my Power for the good of the King's Service – I have the Honor to be with great Respect Sir, [&c.]
Sam^l Graves.

P.S. I have sent the Caulkers to the Scows.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston 5th August 1775—

Sir, I have received your two Letters of to Day and shall be glad you would send me a Return of the Number of Men you have on Board the *Symmetry* and the Scows, they shall either be returned to you, or as many Marines sent on Board your Ships.

The Movements of the Rebels Boats Occasion much Talk and Speculation; and many think they might be shut up in some of the Islands on which they frequently land, and give Time for Boats and Troops to be got ready to attack them on Shore, and that the *Lively* might have taken the whole when they last attacked the Light House. of this you will be best informed, as you will have enquired into it and know the Orders given the Ships; Major [Thomas] Musgrave informs that near One Hundred Whale Boats were seen this Morning at or near Thompson's Island: Some Fisherman Report they were seen passing the Light House, and some suppose they mean coming down the Mystick way, which is unguarded. Others think they are looking out for the Transports, which the Rebels told us this Morning had got a great Number of Sheep and Cattle from Islands in the Sound, Captain Folger, who came to the Lines this Day, informed of a Number of Rebel Cruizers about Nantucket.

I am with great Regard and Esteem Sir &ca

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO BENJAMIN HALLOWELL ¹

(Copy)

Boston 5th August 1775—

Sir, I have received your Letter, and do give permission that your Schooner may receive on Board for her defence, the Swivel Guns, and Hoitz you mention, from Mr Hubbard, Colonel Ewing, and Mr Webb, but at the same Time, I must observe to you that Mr Dymond is thought to be a suspected Person, that he is said to have carried both Persons, and Letters from this Town to Salem, without any Authority for so doing; therefore I am to desire you to enquire into this matter, and if you find it true to put some proper Person in his Place. I have no objection to your Vessel being Armed, and will grant her a Letter of Marque to make Prizes, which I hope she will take pains to do; but should she suffer any Vessels to pass her, that she may have in her Power to secure, I shall be obliged to withdraw her Letter of Marque, and in future take care she has no such Authority again,

I am with Regard and Esteem Sir, &ca.—

1. Gage Papers, CL.

MINUTES OF A PROVIDENCE TOWN MEETING ¹

At a Town Meeting holden, by adjournment, in Providence, on the 5th of August, A.D. 1775:

The Honourable Nicholas Cooke, Esq, Moderator

Whereas certain evil-minded persons, inhabitants of this Colony, and acquainted with the Creeks and Channels of the Narragansett Bay, have made it their practice of late to assist our inveterate enemies by piloting their armed Vessels up the River from Newport towards this Town, with the known design of distressing the loyal and peaceable inhabitants of the Colony, and piratically seizing their property, &c.

Wherefore it is Voted by this Meeting, that the Deputies for this Town be, and they are hereby instructed to use their influence to procure an act of the General Assembly, for inflicting the severest punishment upon such atrocious offenders, as a means of discouraging such villanous conduct in future; and that such act be made to extend to all such persons who may be guilty of such practice on any part of the coast.

1. *Providence Gazette*, August 12, 1775.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Swan*, JAMES AYSCOUGH, COMMANDING ¹

August 1775

Fishers Island S S W Distce 2 or 3 Leag[s]

Satuy 5th

[P M] Saw Seven Sail in Sight . . . Spoke with the *Spie* Sloop & Seven Transports from Boston . . . Company with *Rose* and Seven Transports – Anchord in the Sound

1. PRO, Admiralty, 51/960.

“REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY’S SHIP *Rose*”¹

August 1775

Saturday 5 7 A M weigh’d and came to Sail out of the [Rhode Island]
Harbour
P M Join’d Compy *Swan* & 7 Transports saild round the S W
End of Fishers Island, made Sigl to Anchor

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK¹

[New York] Die Sabbati, 9 ho. A.M., August 5th, 1775

Mr. John Foster informed the Congress that the committee of the several towns in Suffolk county, have resolved not to permit any cattle or live-stock to be shipped off from Suffolk County; and further informed the Congress that if he may be permitted to send a cargo of live stock to the West Indies, he does engage to bring back in return, military stores for the benefit of this Colony, if the same can be obtained in the port or ports to which the vessel shall touch, and give the first offer of the sale thereof to this Provincial Congress or such other Provincial Congress of this Colony as shall then be sitting. Mr. Foster’s proposal being agreed to by the Congress,

Ordered, That Mr. Foster be permitted to ship a cargo of live stock to the West Indies, that he may be thereby enabled to procure military stores.

The order of the day being read, the Congress resumed the consideration of the resolutions moved by Mr. [Isaac] Low on the second inst. The same were read, and being again read paragraph by paragraph, on the reading the second resolution, to wit, the last paragraph, Mr. [Alexander] McDougall moved that the word *base* be obliterated, and the word *insolent* inserted in its stead. And the same being unanimously agreed to,

Ordered, That the said amendment be made.

The last paragraph being read, Mr. McDougall then moved that the words “*and enemies to their country*,” be obliterated; and debates arising thereon, and the question being put it was carried in the affirmative . . .

Ordered, Therefore, that the words “*and enemies to their country*” be obliterated.

Mr. Gilbert Livingston then moved, (and was seconded by Mr. Melancton Smith,) that the said motion and resolution be wholly rejected. and the question being put thereon, it passed in the negative . . .

Resolved and ordered, therefore, That the said resolutions, with their preambulatory recitals or introductions, as amended and agreed to, be entered on the journals as part of the proceedings of this Congress, and that the same be published in the newspapers . . .

Ordered, That the committee of the city of New-York be requested to send for any such persons before them as they shall think proper to examine; and that

they take examinations and every other such measure as they shall devise or think proper, to discover the persons who sawed and destroyed the boat lately ordered to be built for the use of His Majesty's Ship *Asia*. And that they report their proceedings and discoveries therein to this Congress, with all convenient speed.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 101-102.

JOSHUA HUMPHREYS' BILL FOR BUILDING THE PENNSYLVANIA GALLEY
*Experiment*¹

Philadelphia, Aug. 5, 1775

The Committee of Safety	Dr
for building the Boat called the <i>Experiment</i> . viz	
To 28 floor Timbers a 6/	8..8..-
To 53 fut hooks 8/	21..4..
To 13 ditto do	5..4..
To 11 Knees (Small) 3/6	1.18..6
To 6 Large ditto 2 at 10 & 4 a 7/6	2.10..0
To 38 feet of 6 Tuck Wale for Carriages a 15d	2..7..6
To paid for Hauling ditto & sundrys 10/	10..-
To 2294 feet of 2 Inch Plank & 48 do a 4d is 2342 ft	39..0..8
To 217 ditto 2½ do 5d	4.10..5
To 86 ditto 4 do 8d	2.16..8
To 93 ditto 3 do 6d	2..6..6
To 116½ lb of Oakum 4d	1.18.10
To 1 ps. of 6 In. Wase for a Keel	3..0..
To Stock for the Stern 60 feet a 12d	3..0..0
To 1 Stern ps 20/	1..0..0
To 1 Bredit hook 5/	5..0
To 1 Stern ps Knee 20/	1..0..0
To 2 Skidds & 2 Beams a 16/	3..4..0
To Staff for Rudder	10..0
To a Keelson	1..0..0
To Dead Wood & Apron	18..0
To 800 feet of 1¼ In. Boards a 3d	10..2..6
To 924 do 1½ Inch Pine a 2½d	9.16..8
To 590 do 1 In: Cedar a 2d	4.18..4
1 bbl of Pitch 25 & 6 breeng Tubbs a 12d Use of Yard & Stuff for Launching £6..0..0	7.11..0
Carried over	£139..0..7

[Page 2]

To Amount brought over			139..0..7
To James Reynolds	10½ days a	7/	3.13..6
To Thomas Thomson	1 day	do	7..
To John Turner	½ do	do	3..6
To Joseph Bowers	12½ do	do	4..7..6
To Patrick Hamilton	11½ do	do	4..0..6
To Simon Barnet	12½ do	do	4..7..6
To Richard Thomas	10½ do	do	3.13..6
To Joseph Hulings	15½ do	do	5..8..6
To James Ferguson & Boy	13 do	a 6/	3.18..0
To Edward Hynes	11 do	a 7/	3.17..
To Alexander Craig Sawyer	14 do	6/6	4.11..
To ditto Mate	12 do	a 5/	3.10..
To Edward Grew	7½ do	6/	1.17..6
To John McCombe	½ do	7/	3..6
To Joseph Fanning	½ do	7/	3..6
To Marmaduke Owens	11½ do	do	4..0..6
To David Gunnison	6 do	do	2..2..
To Nehemiah Davis	2 do	4/6	9..
To Swanson Duche	8½ do	7/	2.19..6
To Will: Falkner	16 do	do	5.12..
To Will: Donaldson	8½ do	do	2.18..6
To Thos. Linley (his Boy)	9½ do	4/	1.18..
To Reynolds Wharton	15 do	7/	5..5..
To William Toy	13 do a	7/	4.11..-
To James Carr	15 do a	6/	4.17..6
To Chas. Bradley	14 do a	7/	4.18..-
To Andrew Smiley	14 do a	7/	4.18..-
To Abel Lee	13 do a	6/	2.18..6
To Roger Herl	12 do a	5/	3..-..
To Norman McCloud	13 do a	4/6	2.18..6
To Walker Turner	13 do a	7/	4.11..-

Carried Over £241..0..7

[Page 3]

To Amount brought over			241..0..7
To James Shillingsford	4	days a 9/	1.16..
To Thomas Shillingsford	2	do a 8/6	..17..
To James Shillingsford	4	do a 4/6	18..
To Charles Norton	2	do a 9/	18..
To Thomas Havens	3	do a 9/	1..7..
To Robert Glen	2	do do	18..
To Alexr Brown	5½	do 7/	1.18..6
To James Day	9	do 5/	2..5..
To Andrew McBride	4½	do 5/	1..2..6
To Elias Longfetty	11½	do 7/	4..0..6
To William Ginn	7	do 7/	2..9..0
To Joshua Humphreys for his attendce &c	14	days a 10/	7..0..0
To 3 brush brooms		a 6d	1..6
To 30 Gallons Rum		4/	6..0..0
To 20 lb Sugar		a 6½	10.10
To 4 Cleets		a 1/6	6..0

bill delivered dated 20 Sept 1775

£273..8..5

1. Joshua Humphreys Ledger D., 1766-1777, HSP. Another bill, for building the Pennsylvania Galley *Washington*, is in the same ledger. As the dimensions and quantities of material differs but slightly, and the workmen employed were the same as for the *Experiment*, it seems needless to give the detailed bill. It was delivered on the same day, September 20, as the *Experiment's* bill, but was about seventy-five pounds greater, £355..4..2.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] August 5, 1775

Mr. Owen Biddle presented to this Board from Mr. Robert Smith, a Model of a Machine for lowering and raising balace [ballast] into and out of the Chivaux de Frise, to be sunk in this River, for which Mr. Biddle is desired to return to Mr. Smith the thanks of this Board.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 299.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA ¹

In Committee, August 5, 1775

From the late conduct of Governour [Josiah] Martin at Fort Johnston, and intelligence since received by this Committee, it appears he intends erecting a King's Standard, and commencing hostilities against the people of this Province.

It is therefore, Resolved, That no person or persons whatsoever, have any correspondence with him, either by person communication, or letter, on pain of being deemed enemies to the liberties of America, and dealt with accordingly. And that no person or persons presume to remove him or themselves from hence

Philadelphia Aug. 5. 1775.

Joseph Smith for Staff tent - D.

To 1 small bow piece stem

1 small rising timber

Simon Kirklock for 105 feet of 52 whole

Warwick Coates D. To 1/2 of water 56 feet

Thomas Gardorp D. To Knees.

The Committee of Safety. D.

To building the Boat called the Experimenting

To 28 Floor Boards .. 26 - 8. 8

To 53 Subboards .. 21. 11

To 13 ditto .. 2. 5. 1

To 11 Knees (small) .. 3/6 .. 1. 18. 6

To 6 large ditto .. 2. 11. 0

To 30 feet of 6 Inch Wide for Sailing 15 .. 2. 7. 6

To paid for Hauling ditto .. 10 .. 10

To 229 1/2 feet of 2 Inch Plank } (240 1/2) 23 1/2 2. 0. 0

To 2 1/2 ditto .. 2 1/2 2. 10. 5

To 6 1/2 ditto .. 2. 16. 8

To 9 3/4 ditto .. 3 3/4 .. 2. 6. 6

To Elias Longfellow .. 10. 2. 71 .. 4. 0. 0

To William Green .. 7 2. 71 .. 2. 9. 0

To Joshua Humphreys for his attendance 17 0. 0

14 days .. 10 1. 6

To 3 Subboards .. 6. 0. 0

To 30 Gallons Rum .. 10. 10

To 20 Sugar .. 2. 73. 2. 5

To 4 Flutes .. 1/6 .. 6. 0

bill delivered dated 20 Sept. 1775 273. 8. 5

Extracts from Joshua Humphreys' bill for building the Pennsylvania galley Experiment, August 5, 1775.

to Core Sound, or any other part of the Province where the Governour resides, without leave of this Committee, as he or they will not be suffered to return here.

By order:

R. Cogdell, Chairman

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 40.

ARTHUR MIDDLETON TO WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON ¹

[Extract]

[Charleston] Council of Safety, August 5th 1775

Dear Sir: [Bryan] Foskey returned from Philadelphia late last night – there is nothing new from the Army . . .

All Vessels bringing Gun Powder, Arms, Salt Petre, Sulphur, to be permitted to load & export provisions to the value of such military Stores, the *non-exportation notwithstanding*. This clause to be sent to all the Islands in the West Indies but not to be published in the Newspapers . . . ²

We shall be driven to a Sea War at last; I hope our dear little *Maria Wilhelmina* will be replaced and Admiral Tennant fight over his ideal battles in reality, for behold a resolution of the Continental Congress much to our purpose. “That it be recommended to each Colony to appoint a Committee of Safety to superintend & direct all matters necessary for the security & Defence of their respective Colonies in the recess of their Assemblies & Conventions – and that each Colony at their *own expence* make such provision by *armed vessels or otherwise* as their respective Assemblies, Conventions or Committees of Safety shall judge expedient & suitable to their circumstances & situation for protection of their *harbours & navigation on their Seacoasts* against all *unlawful Invasions, attacks & depredations from Cutters & Ships of War*.” ³

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, XXVII, 124, 125.

2. Benjamin Franklin’s resolution, approved by the Continental Congress, July 15, 1775.

3. Resolution in the Continental Congress, July 18, 1775. This and the previous resolution were conveyed to Charleston by Foskey, the messenger whose arrival is noted by Middleton.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775 [Off Georgia Coast]

Aug. 5. Fresh breeze and thunder squalls; wind southerly: lat. observed 30 51.

1. “Hatter’s Report”, Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

6 Aug. (Sunday)

SIR GUY CARLETON TO LIEUTENANT WILLIAM HUNTER, H.M.S. *Gaspee* ¹

(Copy)

Quebec 6th August 1775.

Sir The Province having been repeatedly invaded in the Course of less than three Months, by a number of Rebels in Arms, who carried off a Sloop, some Bateaus and other Stores belonging to His Majesty these Enemies by recent intelligence are considerably Augmented, and daily making such preparations as indicate the most hostile intentions against the peace and Tranquility of this Province; and as it becomes necessary to collect all the Force than [that] can be got together, to resist and repel all Enemies to the Crown, I think it will tend very much to His Maj-

esty's Service, and am in consequence to require, you will, with as much dispatch as practicable proceed with the Armed Brigantine *Gaspe* under your Command to Montreal, or as high up the River, as you can with safety to your Vessel, and there Cooperate with His Majesty's Land Forces in the Defence of the Province.

You will please to consult with Brigadier General [Richard] Prescott, about all such matters, as may tend to the end proposed, and take under your Care and Management three Armed Vessels taken up for the River Service, being the Schooners *Polly*, *Isabella* and *La Providence*.

In full confidence that you will chearfully embrace this Opportunity of contributing as much as depends on you towards the Public Service, You may be Assured of the regard with which I am Sir [&c.]

Guy Carleton

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript. The *Gaspee* had arrived in the river before Quebec on July 18, 1775, and upon receipt of Carleton's orders set sail up the St. Lawrence on August 7. PRO, Admiralty 51/381.

DIARY OF BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDEDIAH PREBLE ¹

[Roxbury] Sunday the 6th Aug. 1775

Several buildings were burnt on Charlestown Neck by our people. The ships fired ten shot at them. Two ships came in (one brought in a sloop with some live stock) one of which was supposed to come from England, as she was saluted by the castle and Admiral.² Lodg'd at Gen'l [John] Thomas's.

1. Preble, *Prebles in America*, 62.
2. The saluted vessel was the sloop *Kingsfisher*, whose journal read: "At 10 Saluted Adml Graves with 11 Guns Anchored in Boston with Bt Br in 4 fm Veered to $\frac{1}{3}$ Cable." PRO, Admiralty 51/506. She was returning from a cruise, and not entering from Europe. She brought with her the prize sloop *Polly*, from New Haven for Barbadoes with cattle, horses and corn, Grave's Conduct, Prize List, 377, MassHS Transcript. See also, Graves to Stephens, August 17, 1775.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*" ¹

August 1775 The S W End of [Fishers] Island S E
 Sunday 6 A M Anchd 12 fm as did the *Swan* and Transports.
 P M Employ'd bringing off Stock.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

JOHN DESHON TO CHRISTOPHER LEFFINGWELL ¹

Dear Sir

New London Augst 6th 1775

I have Just Recd your Letter in answer to which, I Inform you that at Present there is Ten Sail of Men of war & Transports at anchor Near North Hill Fishers Island, and one Large Ship Just now Doubled the point – I suppose they are Come to take the Stock off Fishers Island – as to shiping in our harbour we have the Brig *Nancy* and 4 more Vessels of Mr [Nathaniel] Shaws – we have no Particular News since the Post – Mr D. Stuart is Very Desirous to go on Board the men of war & Promises to Bring us anny Inteligence for the Good of N.L. that he can – we are now Going to Consult upon this Subject –

our Field Peaces are in good order & Ready for use, but the Town are not willing to part with them at this Juncture, but in my oppinion Every Town of anny Bigness in this Coleney aught to have one if for no Other use but to Know the use of them – we have Shot Suitable for them

our Militisha are now Geting under arms, & we hope to be ready to Meet our foes with fortitude – nothing further of Consequence, am yrs in Sincerity

John Deshon.

1. NHCHS.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Sir,

Tionderoga August 6th. 1775.

I enclose you a Copy of a Report made me by the Master of the Schooner on Lake Champlain, confirming the Account that Vessels of Force are building at St Johns.

The Accounts of the Persons employed in taking and garrisoning Crown Point & this Place are involved in such a Cloud of Confusion, that I shall find it very difficult to execute your Orders on this Head with Precision. The Colony of Connecticut has paid some Part of the Money; so has the Massachusetts, and a small Sum has been advanced by me. It will be necessary therefore that Congress should order the Accounts from those Colonies to be transmitted to me, (together with the Return of the Men as made to them) specifying who the People were that have received Money, in which Case I can take the Receipts in full, charge the whole Amount in my Accounts, & give Credit for what has been advanced by others. By the Return I have already recd I find that the same Men are charged in two or three different Accounts; so that none can be paid until the whole are returned, however necessitous they may be, and many of them are most truly so.

Two Days after my Arrival here I gave such Orders respecting the issuing of Provisions that I hoped an effectual stop would have been put to any future Misapplication, in which I have been disappointed. In mentioning this I do not mean to impeach the Integrity of the Men employed. I believe them honest and well meaning: but however willing they were to obey, they were so ignorant of Forms, that it was not easy for them to get into a proper Train, and therefore I ordered the Deputy Commissary General to send up a Person (whom I named and knew to be equal to the Task) to give them such explicit Directions and Forms, as that they will not hereafter labour any Difficulties to discharge their Duty with Propriety & Regularity, and Mr John N. Bleeker is now employed for that essential Service.

Out of about five Hundred Men that are here, near one hundred are sick, and I have not any Kind of Hospital Stores, altho I had not forgot to order them immediately after my Appointment. The little Wine I had for my own Table, I have delivered to the Regimental Surgeon. That being expended I can no longer bear the Distress of the sick, and impelled by the Feelings of Humanity, I shall take the Liberty immediately to order a Physician from Albany (if one can be got there, as I believe there may) to join me with such Stores

as are indispensably necessary. If Congress should approve of this Measure they will please to signify what Allowance of Pay will be made – If not I shall discharge the Person whoever he be, paying him for the Services he may have performed.

Lieutenant Col [Samuel] Mott is still here. I am at best but a very indifferent Judge of the engineering Business; but from [what] I can discover he appears to me as well qualified as any Gentleman that can be got, who is not regularly bred to the Business. I am sure he is active and has the Service much at Heart, and I could wish if his Appointment is to be confirmed, that his Commission might be transmitted me.

It is more than probable that before I can receive your Answer to this Letter, I shall have a Sufficiency of Boats to transport what Troops I am likely to have to St Johns if I should be ordered there (for, after deducting what will be absolutely necessary to garrison these Places, and bring a Supply of Provisions, I shall, at most, have only twelve Hundred Men) In that Case I wish to be informed what I am to do with the Carpenters that are here; for altho I think it necessary to build more Boats, yet I ought to know whether Congress means that I should build a naval Force superior to that of the Enemy. If so, I must keep them, and beg some more good Builders. The Boats I have found on the Lake are so bad, that the Labour we have bestowed upon them is in a great Measure lost.

As the Commander of the Sloop has left her, of which I was advised on my Arrival at Albany, I wrote to the New York Provincial Congress to send me up a Man, which they have accordingly done, and I am just now informed that Congress has appointed another.² If so, I beg the Directions of Congress, how I am to dispose of Capt [James] Smith the present Commander.

I am Sir [&c.]

Ph. Schuyler.

[Endorsed] Read in Congress Sepr 14th 1775.

1. Papers CC., 153, I, 102, NA.

2. This was an unfounded rumor.

CAPTAIN EDWARD MOTT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT ¹

[Extract]

Ticonderoga the 6th Augt. 1775

Lt [Jeremiah] Halsey hath ben from the Company Ever since the Latter Part of June, on bord the Vessels for which Service he is now Discharged and is Honourably Paid for but He Still Talks of not joining the Company any more if he Should not; Should be glad of Comision to Fill the Company

1. Trumbull Papers, Conn SL.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce*
BY CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775 [Off North Florida Coast]

Aug. 6 Fine settled weather, with fresh gales: lat. obsd. 29 55.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

7 Aug.

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

(Copy)

Halifax August 7th 1775 –

Sir I acquainted you in my last that there was one Barton a Ship Carpenter who had been employed on Lake Ontario, had promised to give to me proposals for the raising such a Number of Carpenters & Mariners as you proposed in your Letter to me; I now inclose you his proposals to me for that purpose, which I think Reasonable; & under the Terms he has proposed, I think they cannot be engaged in this Province; I have therefore Ordered him to Sett about Raising if he can 25 of each Class or more with all expedition, promising they shall enter into pay upon their signing their Agreement. I must acquaint your Excellency that Wages are very high in this Province, the Labourers being few, Farmers give in the Country 3/6d to 4/ Per Day at this Season & find them with Provision.

I thought no time was to be lost that this affair require'd Dispatch, and I do assure your Excellency that I will expedite it by every means in my power. I am [&c.]

Francis Legge

1. Nova Scotia Papers, DAC.

INFORMATION GIVEN BY THOMAS LOWDEN AT CORNWALLIS, NOVA SCOTIA ¹

(Copy) Duplicate

Nova Scotia ss

The Deposition of Thomas Lowden Master of the Schooner *Rebecca* (who Arrived in Cornwallis in the Night between the 6th & 7th of August 1775) taken before John Burbidge Esqr One of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for King's County –

This deponent being duly Sworn, deposeth and saith, that he left Pas-samaquoddy, or Island of Campo Bello, on Friday the 4th Instant, that some days before he this Deponent sailed, One Capt Knap in a Brig Arrived there, and several others, who informed this Deponent that there was Eleven Privateers on the Coast seven from New York and four from Philadelphia, and he understood that the greatest part of them carried Twenty Guns each, and several more were expected to sail from the above Places in a Few Days, and this Deponent was told that one of the Privateers of Twenty Guns had fallen in with a Forty Gun Ship of War, and had an Engagement near Martha's Vineyard, but the Privateer got away; that he was also told about Six Weeks ago a large Ship arrived at Philadelphia laden with Ammunition &c. and landed it, and Sailed again, but was not told where She was from, or where going, that it was publicly talked at Camp Bello that preparations were making in New England to send a Number of Provincial Troops into Nova Scotia, under the Command of one Colol Preeble to prevent Provision going to Boston, and also to destroy those who Sold and purchased for that Purpose, and particularly the Transports at Windsor, that Capt Night [Lieutenant Knight] commander of the Schooner *Diligent* as he was told, was on his Business Surveying, put into Machias River, and one Smith desired them to come on Shore on a Friendly manner on which Mr Night and

some Officers went on Shore, where they were immediately made Prisoners, & ordered the Vessel to be brought up which was done and the Vessel Stript and both Officers and Men ordered to be sent to this Congress, this Deponent was informed that a large Sloop from Philadelphia with Provisions &ca bound to Halifax was taken and Carried into Machias, that they proposed paying them for the Provisions and to dismiss the Vessel and People, that Mr William Shey and Mr Kerby's Son of Halifax was on board said Sloop when taken – And further this Deponent saith not.

(Signed) Thomas Lowden

Taken & Sworn before me at Cornwallis this 7th Day of August 1775

(Signed) John Burbidge, Jus. Peace

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

PROTEST BY MASTER AND CREW OF THE SEIZURE OF THE SCHOONER *Ann* ¹

By this public Instrument of Protest be it known & made manifest unto all whom it doth or may concern, That on the Seventh Day of August 1775, before me John Wendell of Portsmouth in the Province of New Hampshire Esq. Notary & Tabellion publick by Lawfull authority admitted, sworn & registered by the Clerk of his Majesty for Faculties in Chancery London, personally appeared Robert Sanders, jun. Skipper, and Jacob Tibbets, Isaac Remmick & Abm Mathews, mariners & Fishermen late belonging to the Schooner *Ann* of wch Titus Salter of Portsmo aforesaid Merchant was sole owner, who being all sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, do solemnly declare, that they arrived in sd Schooner from a short voiage at Rye in the Province aforesaid about four miles from this Harbour on the 21st day of June last past, having on board abt Thirty Quintals of Fish, that these Deponents all belonged to the said town of Rye and having taken out said Fish, they then put on board some dry Fish to the amount of fifteen Quintals to bring round in the Schooner to the owner to deliver up with said Schooner as they had laid aside all thoughts of going out on a Fishing voiage again; That they lay wind bound & being a barr'd Harbour they could not get out till the 5th of July, at which time they sailed and were then seized off the Harbour by a Boat belonging to his Majesty's ship *Scarborough*, Andrew Barclay Esq. commander for a Breach of the Act of Parliament for the restraining the Fishery of the New England Colonies, and having taken the Schooner into Possesion they carried her into the Harbour & moor'd her near the *Scarborough* & dismissed these Deponents, and these Deponents further declare that the said Schooner was not out of Rye River from June 21 to July 4th and that they have not been cited to appear at any of his Majesty's Courts of Admiralty to reply unto any Libel that may have been taken out to justify said seizure, and further these Deponents say not.

Wherefore, I, the said Notary did & do in behalf and at the request of these Deponents solemnly protest against the Winds & Seas as the sole & only cause that prevented the said Schooner from being delivered up before the time aforesaid, for all costs, Losses, Damages & Expences by these Deponents sustained or which may hereafter be sustained by them or the owners & Insurers, or any

Person interested in the said Schooner & Fish by means or account of the said Detention.

Thus done & protested at Portsmouth aforesaid, the day & date aforesaid in the Presence of Thomas Bickford & Robert Sanders Senr witnesses hereto requested.

In Testimonium cujus presens Instrumentum manu ac sigillo officil Signavi rogatus

John Wendall, Not. Pub.

Robert Sanders, Jun^r

Jacob Tibbets

Isaac Remick

his

Ab^m X Mathews

mark

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 390, 391.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOSEPH PALMER ¹

[Extract]

Cambridge, August 7, 1775

In respect to the Boats &c. from Salem, I doubt, in the first place, whether they can be brought over by Land – in the Second, I am sure nothing could ever be executed here by Surprise; as I am well convinced that nothing is transacted in our Camp, or Lines, but what is known in Boston in less than 24 hours, – indeed, Circumstanced as we are it is scarce possible to do otherwise, unless we were to stop the Communication between the Country and our Camp and Lines; in which case, we shd. render our Supplies of Milk, Vegetables &c. difficult and precarious. – We are now building a kind of Floating Battery, when that is done and the utility of it discovered, I may possibly apply for Timber to build more, as Circumstances shall require.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 405.

LETTER FROM "A TRAVELLER" TO THE EDITOR OF *Boston Gazette* IN WATERTOWN ¹

Watertown, August 7, 1775

Since I came out of Boston, where I left all my effects to the mercy of a lawless banditti, to amuse myself have made several excursions into different parts of the country, and with pleasure have observed the firm, steady, and resolute spirit which animates every individual. My last tour was to Portsmouth, where, to my astonishment, and I dare say to the astonishment of all America, I was informed, that the Committee for that Town had voted to supply the *Scarborough* man-of-war, lying in their river, with from four to six hundred weight of fresh beef weekly. This account, I must confess, appeared to be scarce credible; but on making farther inquiry, found it too true; and the reason assigned for this conduct was owing to the threats of a paltry sloop-of-war to deprive the inhabitants of fresh fish, unless they afforded them such a quantity of beef. Too great a soul I hoped animated the breast of every American to submit to so insolent a demand; and instead of treating it with the contempt such insolence

deserved, to the surprise of many of the worthy inhabitants, the Committee passed a vote to supply with provisions those butchers of our countrymen, who are daily pilfering and destroying our property, and exercising every act of cruelty to distress and destroy us, by this unexampled instance submitting to their imperious demands, and, like suppliants, entreating their favour. Such conduct, at so important a crisis, cannot but wring tears from every well-wisher to America. This fact is of so important a nature, that it ought in justice to be made publick; and I hope it will so affect the minds of the worthy inhabitants of that Town, as to exclude from all further service the timid members of a Committee who act in direct opposition to both Continental and Provincial Congresses.

A Traveller.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th series, III, 59.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO LORD DUNMORE ¹

(Copy)

Preston at Boston 7th August 1775

My Lord, I cannot express My Astonishment upon reading Your Lordships Letter July 17th representing the behaviour of Captain [John] Macartney of His Majesty's Ship *Mercury*, whom I had considered and sent to your Assistance As an experienced Officer, extremely diligent and punctual and without the least doubt of his Conduct in all respects meriting Your Lordships particular Acknowledgements: It gives me great concern to find 'tis totally the Reverse – I have therefore with all possible dispatch sent Captain James Montagu in His Majesty's Sloop *Kingsfisher* with Orders for Captain Macartney to return to me immediately in the *Mercury*; And as He must answer for his Offences upon Your Accusation at a Court Martial, I am to request Your Lordship will furnish me with such further Proofs of Captain Macartney's Guilt as can be procured and are requisite to support your Lordships Charge against him.

The *Otter* and *Kingsfisher* is the whole force I can at present send to Virginia, and as the Command will de[v]olve on Captain [Matthew] Squire, I shall be happy to know that he Zealously endeavours to exert his utmost for the good of His Majesty's Service, and is acceptable to your Lordship

Sign'd Sam^l Graves

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Charles Town River [Boston] the 7th Augt 1775

Sir I last Night was honoured with your Letter inclosing a Copy of One from his Excellency the Earl of Dunmore referring You to me respecting Captain [John] Macartney's Conduct and my knowledge of facts; in so delicate a point I thought it proper to stay until Morning to give my Answer, as his Lordship had not made me acquainted when I left Virginia with the purport of his Letter, And beg leave to remark that I never was present when his Lordship and Captain Macartney had any Consultations, what comes to my knowledge is as follows – On Captain Macartney's Arrival in his Majesty's Ship *Mercury* at York, he came Onboard the *Fowey* and asked me that State of the Country, And if I went onshore.

Sir

^{Jan 2. 7. 75}
Lovely, Nantasket Road 7 Aug. 1775

I am to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of Yesterday, with the Extract of a Letter from General Gage, enclosed therewith, and agreeable to your request, I have send you the account of the Movement of the Rebel Whale Boats, the Morning they last attacked the Lighthouse.

These boats were held over the beach that join Nantasket to the Main, in the dawn of the Morning, so, that we saw nothing of them till they were near all over to the Lighthouse, which they soon had possession of, and the Hove was on fire directly, almost as soon as I could make the Signal to Alarm the Ships above. I must here observe that at this time there was but little wind, and that far Southerly, and which soon died away to near a calm, so that had I sent or shifted, In the first place, the Lovely could not have cleared Georges Island, and in the next (as it proved a calm) She must have anchored again. And I do declare it, as my opinion, that as the resistance by the party at the Lighthouse was of so short duration, it was not possible for the Lovely to have prevented the destruction of the Hove, the taking the party prisoner, or the the destroying of I am
Yours most obedt. and
most humble Servt. J. P. White

I answered that I looked upon the People to be in a State of Rebellion and thought it was dangerous to go, that the next day being the 12th of July last, Captain Macartney came Onboard the *Fowey* to wait on his Lordship, and afterwards went onshore to wait on the President of the Council; On his return from the President's Onboard the *Fowey* Captain Macartney told his Lordship that he was to dine with the President that day, and that his Lordship told him it was imprudent, as the President was a Man disaffected to Government, and that at his house he would most likely meet some who were then under Arms and in actual Rebellion. And that his Lordship used many Arguments to shew the impropriety of Accepting the invitation without effect, As he went and dined with the President, And, that at that time there were three or four hundred Armed Men in the Town; from the nature of Circumstances the foregoing cannot be otherwise than Awkward; And are the facts that come to my knowledge

Sign'd Geo: Montagu

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

Lively Nantasket Road 7th Augt 1775

I am to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of Yesterday, with the Extract of a Letter from General [Thomas] Gage, enclose'd therewith; and agreeable to your request, I here send you the account of the Movement of the Rebel Whale Boats, the Morning they last attacked the Lighthouse,:

There boats where hal'd over the beach that join Nantasket to the Main, in the dawn of the Morning, so, that we saw nothing of them till they where near all over to the Lighthouse which they soon had possession of, and the House was on fire directly, almost as soon as I could make the Signal to Alarm the Ships above; I must here observe, that, at this time, there was but little wind, and that far Southerly, and which soon died away to near a Calm, so that had I cut or slipt; In the first place, the *Lively* could not have cleared Georges Island, and in the next (as it proved so Calm) She must have Anchored again. And I do declare it, as my opinion, that as the resistance, by the party at the Lighthouse, was, of so short duration, it was not possible for the *Lively* to have prevented the destruction of the House, the taking the party prisoners, or the Boats geting of[f]. I am Sir [&c.]

Th^o Bishop

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir./,

Boston 7th August 1775.

Inclosed Your Excellency will receive An Account of the Number of Men at present employed in the *Symmetry* and Scows belonging to the Men of War. Also Captain [Thomas] Bishop's Answer to me on sending that part of your Excellency's Letter of the 5th Inst wherein his Conduct is blamed the day the Light House was burned; I hope Captain Bishop's Letter will satisfy Your

Excellency it was not in his power to get at the Rebels, I was before so from the Reports made to Me – Your Excellency may be assured that it will give Me unspeakable Uneasiness if any Opportunity is missed by the Squadron of attacking the Enemy with the least prospect of Advantage and that I will most certainly punish to the utmost of my power every Person guilty of the smallest Neglect on a Service of such importance. I have the Honor to be with great respect, Sir, [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

[Enclosure] List of Men belonging to the Squadron doing duty in the *Symmetry* and Scows. Vizt

<i>Somerset</i> -----	Scows -----	17	
	<i>Symmetry</i>	38-----	55
<i>Preston</i> -----	Scows -----		34
Total in <i>Symmetry</i> & Scows-----			89

August 7, 1775.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 1775

Newport, August 7.

Last Thursday morning [August 3] the ships *Rose* and *Swan* sailed from this harbour, and carried with them a brig, belonging to Mr. William Tweedy, of this town, loaded with molasses,¹ a sloop belonging to Connecticut, loaded with molasses, and a sloop freighted with sugar and molasses for New-York;² these vessels, we hear, were sent to Boston; a brig and sloop belonging to Col. Joseph Wanton, of this town, and a sloop belonging to Messrs. Charles Wickham, Robert Stoddard and Benjamin Hicks, of this town, with similar cargoes, were left behind, and released. The above vessels all arrived here, from the West-Indies, within about a week before. (*Impartiality.*)

A gentleman from the American camp says – Last Wednesday [August 2], some rifle-men, on Charlestown side, shot an officer of note in the ministerial service, supposed to be Major Small or Bruce, and killed 3 men on board a ship in Charlestown ferry, at the distance of full half a mile; that General [Thomas] Gage had lately sent 2 armed schooners to Machias, or to some place near it, with cash to buy live stock, and gave orders to take the flock by force if the inhabitants would not sell it, which they did refuse, when the schooners people attempted to take off the stock; upon which the inhabitants rose, made all the men prisoners, seized on the schooners and cash, and shared about 5 £. sterling a man.³

Last Monday [July 31] as two gentlemen from Philadelphia, with 5 others, were going from this town to Providence, in a two mast boat, they were fired upon by the *Rose* man of war and several barges, near Prudence; they run the boat ashore and endeavoured to make their escape, but the people in the barges landed and took 5 of them, among whom were the Philadelphia gentlemen,⁴ who had a number of letters from different persons to the Westward, which letters Capt. [James] Wallace, of the *Rose*, got into his possession, and gave out that they contained some

mighty secrets relative to the designs of the Congress: The gentlemen and the letters, we hear, have been sent to Boston.

1. The brig *Catherine*, Timothy Pearce, master, from Hispaniola, whose cargo was bought for the army in Boston, and the vessel liberated, Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.
2. The sloop with both sugar and molasses, was the *Cherry*, Amos Monson, master. Both vessel and cargo were bought for the army in Boston. The identity of the second sloop, with molasses only, has not been determined, as she was not proceeded against in Boston Admiralty Court, Graves's Conduct, MassHS Transcript.
3. The rifleman story was an idle rumor. The Machias account is a garbled version of the taking of the *Margaretta*.
4. Benjamin Hichborn and Captain White.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Lebanon] Monday, 7. Aug 1775.

Mr [Benjamin] Huntington, one of the committee appointed at the last meeting, reported that he had not yet found a very proper and suitable small vessel to be fitted out as a runner and cutter &c.

After much discourse about the matter of arming the same &c., he with the other committee [were] directed to make further inquiry &c. and report.

Cap. [Robert] Niles (appointed at the last meeting to be captain of said small vessel) was present and accepted to take the command of her &c.

The news of 3 or 4 men of war and 8 or so other ships appearing off New London, yesterday morning, being bro't by express the same day, we are now further informed by Col. Huntington &c., that they are bearing to Fishers Island, supposed with a design to take the stock, &c.

1. Trumbull and Hoadley, eds., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 114.

NATHANIEL SHAW JR. TO JOSEPH TRUMBULL, CAMBRIDGE¹

Dear Sir

New London Augst 7th 1775 –

This last Evening & Yesterday we have been much alarm'd by the Appearance of Nine Ships and 3 Other Top Sail Vessells who were the best part of Yesterday beating between the Gull Islands and this Harbour, but now find they are all att Anchor to the East ward in Fisher Island Sound and beleive they Intend Robbing that Island of what little Stock is Remaining, their, wich is only Milch Cows, Store Sheep & working Oxen, the others that were In Case to Kill were taken of[f] the Day before, and by a Boat from Plum Island I find the Inhabitants Intend to take of[f] the Principal part their, and have Assembled Six or Seven hundd Men att Montaug to Guard their Stock so that I beleive they will have none, that will be so fatt as to Disagree with their Stomachs – we have the Miletia of the County in Readiness to Receive them In Case they are a Mind to make a tryall on the Main –

am very Glad to hear you have got the birth of Commissary General – is their Nothing I Can let you have, West India Goods you know I am never without, and what is the Moast you Can obtain for [from] me if I deliver you Flower att Providence or the Camp, I think I Could git that Article to Providence as well as any Man in this Colony – have had a Boat Constantly Plying between hear and

that Town for this Month past & have mett with no Difficulty, as I am Constantly Inform'd where the Cruising Vessells are –

I should Inclose you Rivingtons & Holts Thursday Papers,² but the Collector is Carried them on Board the Fleet at Fisher Island, as he beleives by the Accotts their will be an Alteration of Measures Soon he thinks it may have sum Influence on their Conduct if he can make them beleive it – I Every moment Expect him on Shore if he comes before the post setts out will Advise you the Result [&c.]

Nath¹ Shaw Jun^r

1. Joseph Trumbull Papers, ConnHS.

2. Rivington's *New York Gazetteer*, and Holt's *New York Journal*.

DR. BENJAMIN GALE TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN¹

[Extract]

Killingsworth 7 Augt 1775 –

You[r Congress dou]btless have [had intim]ations of [the Inven]tion of [a new machine] for [the Destru]ction of [Enemy Ships, but I sit] down to Give [you an Account] of that [Machine and] what Exper[iments have] been alr[eady made wit]h it, what I relate y[ou] may Intire[ly rely] upon to be fact – I will not at this time attempt to Give You a Minute Description of the Form, as the Post is now Waiting, thus Much, it doth not Exceed 7 feet in Length, and the Depth not more than 5½ feet, the Person who Navigates it, sits on a Bench in the Center of the Machine – The Person who invented it, is a student of Yale Colledge, and is Graduated this Year – Lives within five Mile of me. I was the second Person who ever was permitted to see it, there being no other Workman but himself & Brother, Excepting what Iron Work is wanted, which was done by His direction, His Plan is to place the Cask Containing the Powder on the Outside of the Machine, and it is so Contrived, as when it strikes the Ship, which he proposes shall be at the Keil it Grapples fast to the Keils – and is Wholly Disengag'd from the Machine, he then Rows off, the Powder is to be fired by a Gun Lock fixed within the Cask which is sprung by Watch work, which he can so order as to have that take place at any Distance of Time he pleases – The Experiments that has as Yet been Made are as follows – In the Most Private Manner he Convey'd it on Board a Sloop In the Night and Went out into the Sound, He then sunk under Water, where he Continued about 45 Minutes without any Inconveniency as to Breathing, he Can Row it either Backward or forward Under water about 3 Miles an Hour – And Can steer to what Poi[nt o]f Compass he [pl]eases – he can Rise to the [Surface of] the Water w[here and] when he Pleases to [get a fr]esh supply [of air wh]en that is Exhausted [Inside th]e Machine [is a Barometer] by which he can [tell the dep]th under w[ater and can] admit water if [needed] to Bring [the Machine] into a perfect [Equilibr]ium with [the water] he has allso another Pair of Oars by whi[ch he] can Rowe it either up or Down – and a forcing Pump by which he Can free himself from the Water which he Admits to bring the Machine to a Proper Equilibrium with the Water at the Top he has a pair of Glass Eyes by which he sees Objects Under Water – These Parts are all Compleat and these Experiments he has Already Made I might add, he has an Anchor by which he

Can remain in Any Place to Wait for Tide Oppy &c and again Weigh it at Pleasure – about 1000 wt of Lead is his Ballast, part of which is his Anchor, which he Carries on the outside at Bottom of the Machine, this story may Appear Romantic, but thus far is Compleated and All these Experiments above related has been Actually Made, He is now at New Haven with Mr Doolittle an Ingenious Mechanic in Clocks &c Making those Parts which Conveys the Powder, and secures the same to the Bottom of the Ship, and the Watchwork which fires it – I every Minute Expect his return, when a full Tryal will be made, and Give me Leave to Say, it is all Constructed with Great simplicity, and upon Principles of Natural Philosophy, and I Conceive is not Equall'd by any thing I ever heard of or Saw, Except Dr Franklins Electrical Experiments – he Builds it on his own Acct, he was Urged to Ask some Assistance from the Government, Upon the Leiut Govrs seeing it they Offered him Assistance, but it was so Inconsiderable a sum, he refusd it, and Says he will go through with it at his own Risque – the Only Objections in my Mind from what I have seen of the Machinery of it is that he Cannot see under Water so Deep so perfectly as to fix it right, and wh 100 wt of Powder will force its way through the ship I fear the Water will give way before the Bottom of the Ship, and the force of the Explosion Eluded – the Whole Machine may be Transported in a Cart – I might have added he has made the Experiment of firing Powde[r] Under Water after remaining there 25 Minutes – I have been Long Urging him for permission to Acquaint You with these facts He at Length has Consented with this Condition that I request You would not Mention the Affair Untill he has made the Experiment, when Compleated, if Agreeable I will Acquaint You with the Experiments he makes before he goes with it down to Boston, He is Quite Certain he Can Effect the thing and his reasoning so Philosophically and Answering every Objection I ever made that In truth I have great relyance upon it –

. . . I ask Ten Thousand Pardons for presuming to Trouble You with this Long Acct which I fear will Appear to You too Romantic to Obtain Beleiff – but have Endeavoured in the Strictest Sense to relate Facts Truly . . .

1. Franklin Papers, IV, 61, APS. Parts of this letter are torn or blurred. The words within brackets are supplied largely on the basis of a subsequent letter from Dr. Gale to Silas Deane, which described the same machine.

WILLIAM TRYON, GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

New York 7th Aug. 1775

On the 13th ultimo a Boat belonging to His Majesty's Ship of War the *Asia* (the only Kings Ship now in this Harbour) under the command of Captn [George] Vandeput was seized and set on Fire by the Mob. The Mayor and Corporation took up the Matter as a high misdemeanor, & attempted a discovery of the perpetrators of an outrage so manifestly contrary to the general sense and inclination of the Citizens. At the same time they engaged to Captain Vandeput an immediate restitution, and in that were supported by both the City Committee & Provincial Congress. The Boat when partly finished has since in the night been

secretly cut in Pieces. An other Boat I am told is to be built, and I hear it is to be secured against any attempts to destroy it.

The Kings Stores have been frequently broke in upon, and some carried away.

1. O'Callaghan, ed., *Colonial New York*, VIII, 597.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee 7 August 1775

The Committee resumed the Consideration of the Question relating to Messrs. Ashburner & Place and Mr Johnson Gildart, but there being but few Members present, and the Question being of very great Importance it was thought most adviseable to refer it to the Determination of the Provincial Convention.

1. Balt. Com., LC.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION OF PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND ¹

Mr Thomas Gantt Chareman

Thomas Williams Clk

In consequence of a Recommondation from the Honourble Provincial Convention Directed to the General Committee of Observation for Prince Georges County, Mr Christor Lowndes Attended. the following Questions were asked Him

Quest 1st Whether the Brigg *Harriatt* Captn Willm Scott Master Clear'd out in may 1775 by Mr Lowndes out of this Province for Barbadoes, was Seiz'd & Carried to boston by some officer or Officers of his Majesties Ships of War there Station'd

Anser She was not taken nor Carried to Boston

Quest 2d Whether Mr. Lowndes ever Receiv'd any Letter from Henry Lloyd of Boston respecting the said Brigg *Harriott* or Cargo –

Anser He never Receiv'd Any –

Mr Lowndes produced the following Evidences in His defence –

Letters to Mr Lowndes from his Corrospondants in Barbadoes Dated July 1st, 13th & 14th from Philip Lyscott & Compy were produced from which it appears that 19 barrels of flour, 2545 bushels Corn 387 barrs of Iron 20 barrels of Pork, 20 Barrels of hering 19,865 Shingles and 2718 Staves were landed for Mr Lowndes, Accot

A Letter from Mr Biddle of Philadela was produced by Mr Thos Richardson of Geo: Town dated 31st July saying that Capt Scott, was Arrived at Barbadoes & that the Bred ship'd by Mr Richardson on board the Brigg *Harriott* was sold

By the above Evidence & the deposition of John Tolson ² who was a Passenger on board the Brigg *Harriott* to & from Barbadoes, it appears Clear to this Committee that there is not the least foundation for the Charge of Collusion, propagated against Mr Lowndes –

Mr Lowndes prays this proceeding with Mr Tolson's Deposition at Large may be publish'd in the *Maryland Gazette* for his Vindication to the Public –

It is the Opinion of this Committee that these proceedings be publish'd as Soon as possible

Sign'd by Order

Tho^s Williams Clk

In Committee Augt 7th 1775 – Bladensbg

Mr Thos Gantt Chareman

The Committee took into Consideration the Letter from the Honol Provincial Congress, Relative to Mr Munro's Escape from Bladensdg and are of Opinion that Mr. Richard Henderson was no ways Aiding Assisting or Even Privy to the Said George Munro's Escape Sign'd by Order

Tho^s Williams Clk

1. Md. Arch.

2. See John Tolson's deposition, August 4, 1775.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

August 1775 Elizabeth River [Virginia]

Monday 7 A M Impressed 3 Men from the *Owen* from Glasgow for James River

P M arrived here the *Arundel* Schooner. Received the Mate and People from her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA ¹

[New Bern, August 7:]

By a gentleman just come to Town from Cape Fear, we have a certain account that the armed force which lately went down to burn Fort Johnston have effected the same by destroying all the houses and rendering the Fortress entirely useless. Captain [John] Collet, who commanded that Fort, it is said had a number of slaves, which he had instigated to revolt from their masters, actually concealed in the Fort, which were again recovered by their several owners; for this treachery they burnt his dwelling-house, with all his furniture, and every thing valuable he had not time to get on board the man-of-war.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 40.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775 [Off St. Augustine]

Aug. 7. Made the Mattanzas at night; came to under the fort, in seven fathoms water and rode all night. At 6 A.M. got under way, and run down towards the bar of Augustine; where, we saw a sail at anchor off the bar. We ran down to her, and hailed her; and found her to be the brigantine *Betsey*, commanded by Captain Alvere

Lofthouse, from London. We boarded her with our sloop, and upon strict search, found on board of her a large quantity of gun-powder; of which we took one hundred and eleven barrels, one half barrel, and thirty small kegs. Said vessel had on board of her, twelve soldiers from the shore, eight seamen, the captain, two mates, and steward, which was in number twenty-three men; and our number was twenty-one whites, and five blacks. Our situation was such on this occasion, that we thought it most prudent to bribe the men; which we did with one hundred pounds currency: and the captain accepted a draught for one thousand pounds Sterling for the powder, drawn on Mr. John Edwards, of Charlestown. And at half past 11 A.M. after spiking up two pieces of cannon, that were mounted on board said brigantine, we re-embarked our men, and made sail with a light air at E.N.E. The wind weared to the Northward, at 4 P.M. we passed the River St. John's, and passed a small boat stretching to the Southward.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM PACKWOOD TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

Me dear frind

Cap Nicholas mole August the 7, 1775

This my 3d letter to you sense I arovd out the porte of lugan [Leogane] a serting that I could not corlect no more powder, then 5000 wearth from 2s 6d to 3s 9d pr lb I have bin to all the out ports my Self cap franways [Cape Francois] Port au pee [Port de Paix] poart Dolphin & mont Cristo Excluded Which I have made the *macaroni* a franch bottom & is gon to those poarts in quest of powder Capt Georg Champlin arovd hear this day from the cap in forming me that the *macaroni* had bin thear and could not get any thear & had Sald for pour Dolphin thear is none to be hand at windwd I have many frinds in the porte than in case of any arrivals from france thay will purchass and Ship it a meadeatly to me. So I think I have tuck every methoud in order to get powder

Capt. Champlin tels me that the last powder that wass Sold at the cap wass at 7 bitts ² pr lb he has all of his cargoa on board un Sold Mr Pocal at the cap is to Send him a set of franch paper for his Vessel so I emagan that he perposes to go out to the Cap and lie for the arivals from france. I have all of my candels & flower & 40 bblls por, of the *macaroneys* lt Voyag now by me it is on possible to Sel any thing hear or in any part of the franch dominions Islands for Cash I have had advice from Jamica it will not du to go thear if I can not Suckseed to windward I Will Cum a meadeatley hom or Shift it & weate for aroivalls which is Vary Esxpenseef Staying a Shoar or traveling in this Island it is un possible for me to relate my forteegs after powder but I bear out with a chearfull hart

From Sir your Varey Humble Servt

W^m Packwood

1. Shaw Collection, Packet No. 3, YUL.

2. A bit was a Spanish silver piece worth about 12½ cents.

8 Aug.

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir Halifax 8th August 1775

This Letter will be delivered to you by the *Halifax* Packet, who Carries Provisions with her for the Use of the Navy and Army as Specified in her pass and in the Margin of it.

I am afraid these supplies will very soon fail, as there are frequent Exportations from all parts of the Country, and there has been for sometime a Scarcity however what Supplies can be afforded shall be duely sent to Boston taking every precaution to prevent any private Transactions to be carried on Contrary to the meaning of the Passes, and I shall do all in my power to prevent any improper uses of them. I am Sir &c.

Frans Legge

1. Letter Book of the Governor and Council, Commencing October 19th, 1760 and ending in 1784, 214, N.S. Arch. Hereafter cited as Council Letter Book, N.S. Arch.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP, *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE, COMMANDING ¹

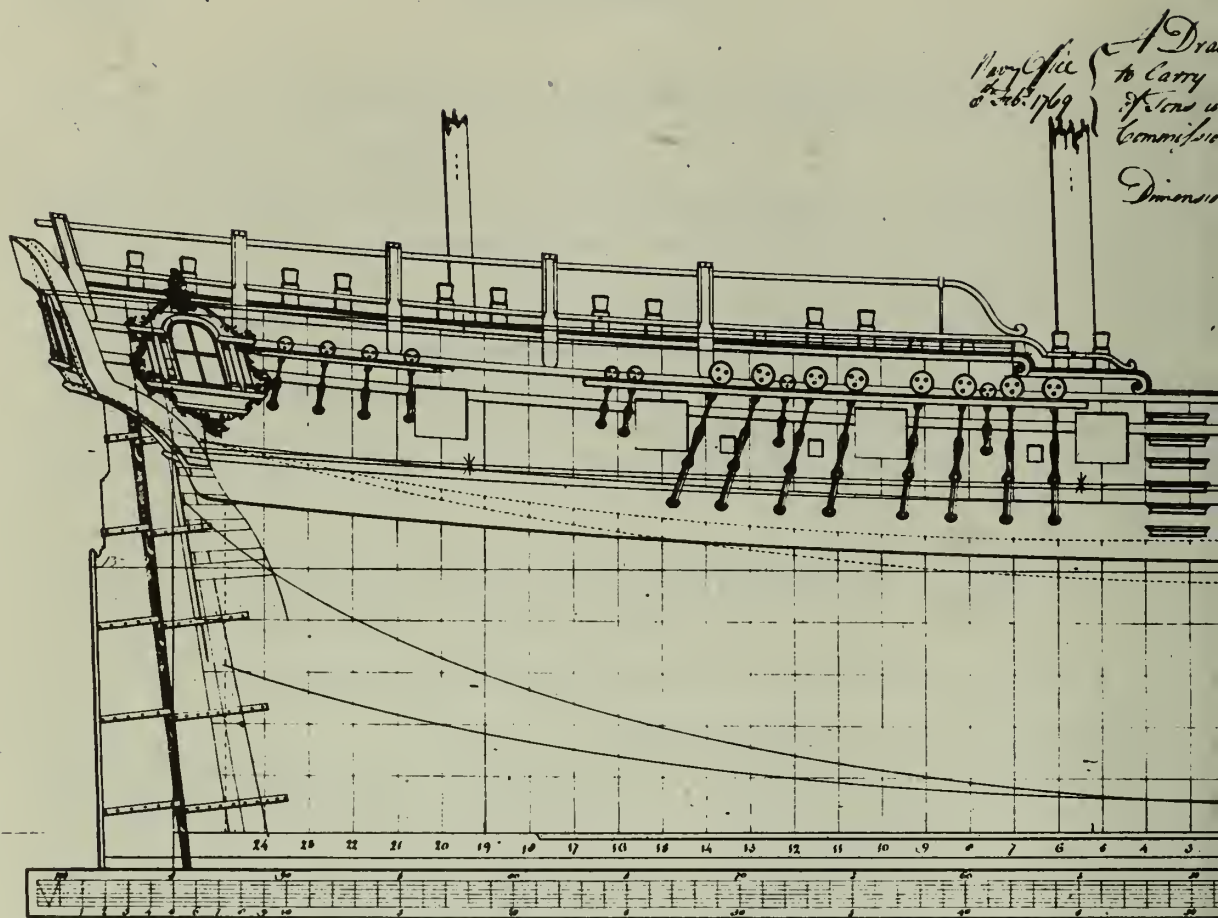
August 1775 Cape Ann Harbour N E 1 Mile
 Tuesdy 8 at 5 A M Weighd and Came to Sail at 8 Saw two Sails to the
 Ed gave Chace at Noon took a Schooner from Hispaniola
 Bound to Salem. at 1 P M Hoisted out all the Boats Came
 to Anchor in Cape Ann Harbr off Ten pound Island Sent
 Lieut. Thornborough With the Pinnace Long boat and Jolly
 Boat to bring out a Schooner that Run in to get Clear at the same
 time the Master in a Small Schooner with the Gunner and some
 People after the Boats Passd a point the Rebels fird on the
 Boats which was Returnd from the Bts fird from the Ship on
 the Town for Several Hours to Releave the Boats found it Im-
 possable left off firing ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

2. See Linzee to Graves, August 10, 1775.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹
 Gentn Camp at Cambridge, August 8, 1775

It must give great concern to any Considerate Mind, that, when this whole Continent, at a vast Expense of Blood and Treasure, is endeavouring to Establish Liberties on the most secure and Solid Foundations, not only by a laudable Opposition of Force to Force, but denying itself the usual advantages of Trade; there are men among us so basely sordid as to Counteract all our Exertions, for the sake of a little Gain. You cannot but have heard that the Distresses of the Ministerial Troops, for fresh Provisions and many other Necessaries, at Boston, were very great; It is a Policy, Justifiable by all the Laws of War, to endeavour to increase them; Desertions, Discouragement, and a Dissatisfaction with the Service, besides weakening their strength, are some of the Natural Consequences of such a Situation; and, if continued, might afford the fairest Hope of Success, without



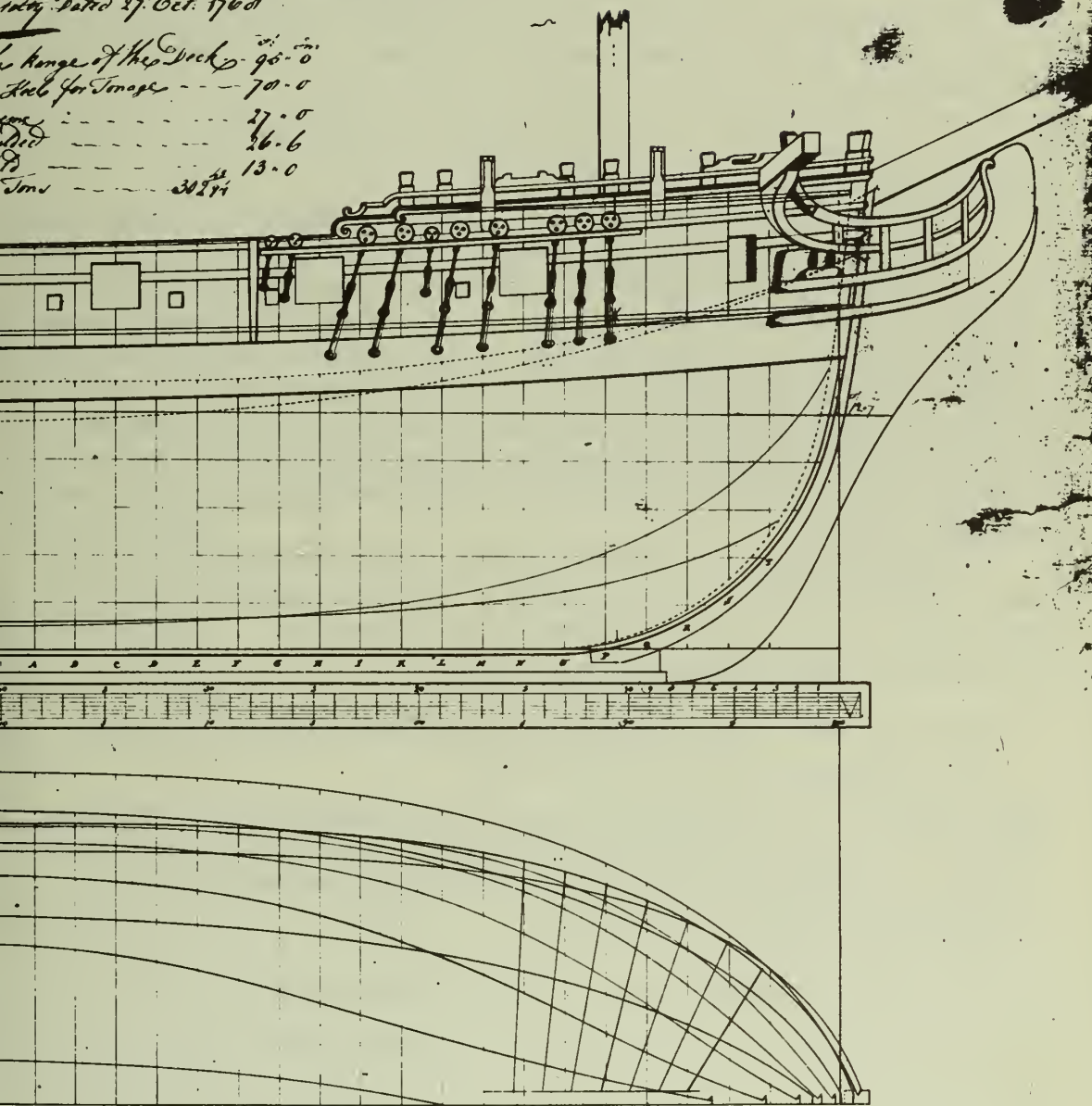
Harbour.	First and Middle parts fresh breeze and cloudy latter light
Cape Ann Harbour	Clear at 5 P.M. weighed anchor and sailed at 8 P.M.
N.E. 1 Mile	Two sails to the E. gave chase at noon took a Schooner
	from Hispaniola bound to Salem.
In Cape Ann	First and Middle parts fresh breeze and heavy latter light
Harbour.	Clear at 1 P.M. hoisted out all the boats to chase
	a Schooner in Cape Ann Bay off Ten Pound Island sent
	out. Therein enough with the Pinnace Longboat and Tolly
	boat to bring out a Schooner that Run in to get Clear
	at the same time the Master in a small Schooner with the
	Cannons and some People after the boats chased a privateer
	which was taken from the Bt.
	and from the Ship on the Town for several hours to
	relieve the boats found it impossible to get off firing at 5
	P.M. began to weigh out of the Harbour.

(Top) Sheer draft of HMS Falcon. (Lower left) HMS Falcon log entries, August 8-1775. (Lower right) Section from the half-breadth plan of HMS Falcon.

in His Majesty's Yard at Portsmouth as Sloop
 6 P. and 12 Swivel. 2 P. of the Dimensions, and Number
 Licence of an Order from the High Noble the Lord
 Dated 27. Oct. 1760

Copy of the Draught was sent to
 Portsmouth for Building the Falcon
 27 Feb 1769

Length of the Deck 96-0
 Bulk for Tonage 70-0
 Breadth 27-0
 Depth 16-6
 Tonnage 302 1/2



I have been endeavouring, by every means in my Power, to discover the future Intentions of our Enemy here. I find a General Idea prevailing thro' the Army and in the Town of Boston, that the Troops are soon to leave the Town and go to some other Part of the Continent. New York is the Place generally mentioned as their Destination. I should think a Rumour or Suggestion of this kind worthy of very little Notice, if it was not confirmed by some corresponding Circumstances. But a four Weeks total Inactivity, with all their Reinforcements arrived and recruited; the daily Diminution, by Desertions, Sickness and small Skirmishes, induce an Opinion, that any Effort they propose to make, will be directed elsewhere.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 407, 408.

August 1775 Moored with Springs on our Cables in Chas Town River
Tuesday 8. at 3 P M several Rebels appeared on the Hill abreast of us &
fired Musquets. we fired a 9 Pounder that disperst them

- VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N.¹

Preston, Boston 8 Aug 1775

A storeship is expected every day, when & not before, you can be supplied with white colours & muster paper.

The *Kingsfisher* is going on urgent service to Virginia & I cannot directly put another vessel in her room, but the *Glasgow* will certainly be with you in a little time. I shall rejoice if you are so fortunate as to destroy any of the rebel pyrates; but even a Newhaven man, with stock, will meet with hearty welcome.

Your master returns this morning with the lieutenant of the *Glasgow* & his people. I have nothing further to add but to desire you will continue your wonted vigilance in intercepting the trade of the rebels, & doing them every mischief you can consistent with your powers which I hope soon to enlarge. I am &c

Sam¹ Graves

1. Grave's Conduct, Appendix, 472, 473, MassHS Transcript.

JOHN BOURMASTER, AGENT FOR TRANSPORTS, TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Empress of Russia, Boston August the 8th 1775

Having received your Order to hold myself in perfect readiness for proceeding to Sea with the *Empress of Russia* Transport, it becomes incumbent on me to inform your Excellency, that by death and Sickness and the number of her Crew that have entered on board the Kings Ships, She is so reduced in her strength that she cannot be Navigated from Port to Port without assistance. I am therefore to beg that you will be pleased to represent my situation to the Admiral and request him to supply me with Twenty Seamen for the above mentioned Ship.

I have the honor to be with the greatest Respect [&c.]

John Bourmaster

1. Gage Papers, CL.

NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND,
TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Providence August 8th 1775

Last evening Col. [Elisha] Porter delivered me your Letter of the 4th instant, to which I have paid all the Attention the importance of it demands.

This Colony the last Fall, not confiding entirely in the precarious Supply of Powder that might be expected from the Merchants, imported a considerable Quantity, though not so large as was ordered. The supplying the Inhabitants, who were in a Manner utterly destitute, the Army near Boston, and our armed Vessels have so exhausted this Stock that the Powder not left which is all in this Place, it greatly insufficient to resist even a short Attack upon it. Our Situation is the same with Respect to Lead. So that at present none of either Article can be spared from the Colony.

By a Vessel which arrived here on the 30th Ulto from Cape Francois we are informed that the Captain of the Vessel sent from this port to the Cape for a Quantity of warlike Stores, in which the Committee of Safety for the Colony of Massachusetts had interested themselves, had excuted his Commission and was to sail with a large Quantity in a Day or Two, so that she may be hourly expected. – This Colony about Four Weeks ago despatched a suitable Vessel with money to purchse Fifteen Tons of Powder and other warlike Stores, which may also soon be expected. – Of these Vessels we have the highest reason to think the enemy have gained Intelligence; the Ships of War upon this Station having for

several Days past cruised continually off Block-Island, and from thence to Montauk-Point, and up the Sound. This hath made us think it absolutely necessary to send the smallest of our armed Sloops to cruise without the Ships of War, and endeavour, at all Hazards to speak with the Vessels expected with Powder, and order them to another Port. — She will sail this day. — The other armed Sloop, by her being within the river, prevents the Cutters and Barges from committing Depredations; so that she cannot be spared: Nor indeed is a Vessel of her Force required for the Enterprise you mention. — We have in this Harbor a very fine sailing Packet that would answer the Purpose extremely well; which might be equipped with Swivels, manned with about Twenty Men and be ready to sail in less than Two Days. But as I do not think it prudent that her sole Dependence should be upon getting Powder at Bermuda it will be necessary to send a Sum of Money to purchase a Quantity at some other Port in Case of a Disappointment at Bermuda. In the present State of the Colony I do not think it probable that a sufficient Sum can be procured here for that Purpose before the Sitting of the General Assembly; and therefore advise that Application be made to the General Court of the Massachusetts-Bay to advance part of the sum necessary. I believe we may be able to supply One Half the Sum here. — Col. Porter hath been at Bedford and along the Eastern shore, but can hear nothing of Harris. He is now bound as far as New-London to endeavour to meet with him; but is greatly apprehensive that he is fallen into the Hands of the Enemy.

We have information that several Ships of War and Transports were the Day before Yesterday at New-London; and that the Country round were all arming and mustering. We also hear that they have taken some stock off the east end of Long-Island.

Sensible of the great scarcity of lead in the country, I some time ago wrote to the Congress of the Massachusetts-Bay and to our Delegates at the Continental Congress recommending that a part of the large Quantity of lead at Ticonderoga should be immediately brought down; and still think the Measure necessary.

I shall immediately give Orders to the Committee of Safety to purchase for the Use of the Colony all the Tow-Cloth that can be had.

If the Powder supposed to be at Bermuda be private Property it must be immediately paid for. If not I imagine it will be settled with our own Disputes. This is a matter that ought to be known and provided for. — Upon further Consideration I am very doubtful whether a Vessel can be immediately provided with Men here; and therefore am of opinion that Twenty five or Thirty Sailors had best be draughted from the Army & held in Readiness to embark immediately upon the Arrival of Harris.

This letter waits upon you by my Son, whom I beg Leave to recommend to your favourable Notice.

I am &c.

Nicho Cooke

“REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY’S SHIP *Rose*”¹

August 1775 New London Ct House N N E 2 or 3 Leags
 Tuesday 8 4 A M fir’d a Gun & made Sigl to Weigh do weigh’d and came
 to Sail Co the *Swan* and Transpts 10 A M came too off Plumb
 Island 4 fm Sandy bottom
 1 P M Weigh’d and came to Sail Co as before at 4 came too off
 Gardners Island 5 fm Do Anchd. the fleet at 10 Weigh’d and
 came to Sail, left the Fleet

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY’S SLOOP *Swan*, JAMES AYSCOUGH, COMMANDING¹

August 1775 Gardners Island W B S Distce of[f] Shore 2 or 3 Miles
 Tuesdy 8th [P M] In Company with His Majestys Ship *Rose* and 7 Trans-
 ports . . . Sent the Boats on Shore, Boats employ’d Getting Cat-
 tle off For the Transports . . . Seized a Boat with 15 Sheep in from
 Long Island. Saild from hence His Majestys Ship *Rose*

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/960.

COLONEL PHINEAS FANNING TO THE NEW YORK PROVISIONAL CONGRESS¹

Sir—— Oyster Ponds, August 8th, 1775, 12 o’Clock, P.M.

This afternoon at 4 o’clock, I received your orders of the 7th instant; agreeably to which I immediately went to the militia to give them orders to be in readiness at a minute’s warning, and on my way to the Oyster Ponds I met an express from the committee of the Oyster Ponds to the committee at Southhold, informing them, that this morning, at 10 o’clock, the Ministerial fleet, consisting of thirteen sail of square rigged vessels, of which seven are ships, arrived from the west end of Fisher’s island and came to an anchor off Gardiner’s island point, where they now lie. At 5 o’clock this afternoon, a small boat, which our people took to be a passage boat, attacked Mr. Rufus Tuthill, who was landing about fifty sheep from Plumb island. He had landed about thirty on the north side of Oyster Pond point, when said boat ran in shore and fired upon Mr Tuthill, drove him from his boat, and immediately took his boat with the remaining twenty sheep and carried them off.

Upon receiving the express, I immediately sent an express to the officers of the militia to repair to Oyster Ponds as quick as possible, as I look upon it they will make a descent upon Oyster Ponds, Gardiner’s island, Plumb island, Shelter island, or upon all of them.

I am, Sir [&c.],

Phineas Fanning

P.S. Sir, if any alteration should occur, you may depend on hearing as quick as possible. We are extremely in want of powder.

To P. V. B. Livingston Esqr.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, II, 54, 55.

MINUTES OF THE NORFOLK BOROUGH COMMITTEE ¹

Norfolk Borough Committee Chamber, August 8, 1775

Whereas, it appears from undoubted testimony, that a certain John Schaw, of this Borough, did, in the presence of Lord Dunmore, officiously point out to the Soldiery at Gosport, one Alexander Main, Fifer in one of the Volunteer Companies of this place, as a person who ought to be apprehended for his impudence (as the said Schaw expressed himself) in wearing a hunting shirt in their presence, in consequence of which the unhappy man was apprehended, and is now, by his Lordship's order, confined on board the *Otter* sloop-of-war; we therefore think it our duty to declare, that the said Schaw has herein shown himself a busy tool, and an enemy to American liberty, and as such, we advise every friend to his Country to have no further dealings or connections with him.

William Davies, Secretary

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 66.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775 [Off Georgia Coast]

Aug. 8. Turning to the windward with the wind at N.E. squally, with rain: latitude obsd. 31 26.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY ¹

Sir

Portland at English Harbour 8th Augt. 1775

Since my Arrival at Antigua I wrote You the following Letters, vizt The 10th June by His Majesty's Ship *Chatham*: and the 15th July by the *Eleanor*. (Oswald Master) & the 22d July transmitted a duplicate of the latter: by the *Mermaid*, (French Master) these Letters I hope are come [sa]fe to hand; and that You have Communicated the Contents as requested (to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.) I am now to desire, You will be pleased to acquaint their Lordships: that on the 21st July Arrived in English Harbour, from Dominica, His Majesty's Ship *Hind*, Captain Willm Garnier; who represented to me by Letter, said Ship was very foul; her Sheathing Damaged by Worms, and some Sails, Cables, & Running Rigging much Worn, and unfit for their proper use: I have, therefore, Ordered Her forthwith to be hove down & refitted, and the Stores complained of to be Surveyed.

The 24th July the *Lynx* Sloop being refitted, and reported fit for Sea; I gave her Commander, Orders (a Copy of which are inclosed) to Victual & proceed to Sea &c; and she sailed from hence the 27th July.

The 30th came into English Harbour from a Cruize, his Majesty's Ship *Argo*, Captain Fras Grant Gordon, who delivered me, the Defects of the Kings Ship under his Command of which I have also inclosed a Copy. I immediately Ordered a New Foremast to be prepared for the *Argo*; and such other repairs to be done, as are needful; and when compleated will Order her on Service, to

the more Southern Islands, they being accounted more Secure during the Hurricane Season, than those to the Northward.

The 4th August, arrived here from a Cruise; his Majts Sloop *Pomona*; Captain Henry Bryne; who hath wrote me a Letter (Copy of which I have likewise enclosed for their Lordships information) concerning the Service I had Ordered him on the 10th June last: Captain Bryne also represented to me, the Sloop under His Command was very leaky, and in great want of Caulking.

I therefore have Ordered her upper Works to be Caulked; and her Victualing to be compleated to 4 Months, and then to proceed to the Islands Dominica Barbado's, Tobago, Grenada & St Vincent, her Orders are similar to those given to Captain [Alexander] Scott of the *Lynx* Sloop the 24th July.

I have likewise inclosed, The State and Condition, and Disposition of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels under my Command.

I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

9 Aug.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO THE COMMITTEE OF NORWICH ¹

(Copy)

Camp at Cambridge Augt 9, 1775

Gentlemen I am directed by his Excellency Genl Washington to acknowledge the Receipt of your Favour last evening p Express, & to thank you for your Zeal & Activity in forwarding the Intelligence

As every early Notice had been given of the Sailing of this Fleet & the very Island mentioned which it has Plundered: The General cannot help being somewhat surprized, that effective Measures had not been taken to remove the Stock. which would not only have sent them back with shame and disappointment, but have encreased their Distress at Boston for fresh Provisions, which was very great before this supply.

The remedy proposed in your Letter would be extreamly difficult in our helpless Condition at Sea, The convoy & immediate relief, to be obtained from Boston would make it a very harzardous Enterprize –

I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Jos. Reed Secretary –

On the Service of the United Colonies

G. Washington

To Messrs Chris. Leffingwall & William Hubbard of the Comtee Norwich

1. Nicholas Cooke Papers, II, 16, RIHS. A draft in the Washington Papers, LC mistakenly addresses the Committee at New London.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN OF THIS CITY [PHILADELPHIA],
DATED CAMBRIDGE, AUGUST 9, [1775]” ¹

We have an account from the eastward of our people having taken a man of war's tender, and one or two transports. the particulars are difficult to gather or ascertain however seven marine officers are brought prisoners here, and are secured. There is just arrived an account of an engagement between our people

and a man of war at Cape-Ann, wherein our people had the advantage, but no particulars that can be relied on are come to hand.

If any men of war or regular mercenaries should be sent to Philadelphia, I am in hopes my fellow-citizens will give a good account of them. I have pledged myself for their good behaviour.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, August 23, 1775.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS
UPON THE EXAMINATION OF EDWARD PARRY ¹

The Committee appointed to examine Mr Edward Parry &c have attended that service, And considering his close connection with, and dependance on persons employed by the Crown – his disposition to supply our enemies with Masts, Plank &c contrary to the known sentiments of this people, and that his being restrained from doing it he considers as Acts of violence the [proof of which] appears under his own hand – beg leave to report as their opinion, that the said Edward Parry be immediately sent to some inland Town which shall be more than seventy miles distant from all the Seaports in this Colony, there to be detained & provided for by the selectmen of such Town untill the farther order of this Council – And if on any pretence what ever he shall presume to leave the Town to which he shall be sent, unless by order as aforesaid, he shall be taken & put under close confinement untill the further order of this Court –

P order
August 9th 1775

Benj Lincoln

[Endorsed] In Council read & accepted. – Sent down for Concurrence

Perez Morton Secry pro temp

In the House of Representatives August 12, 1775

Read & concurr'd with the following amendments dele the Words "Some inland Town which shall be more than seventy miles distant from all the Sea Ports" and insert the Town of Sturbridge

Sam^l Freeman Speaker pro temp.

August 12 1775 In Council read & Concurred

Perez Morton Secry pro temp

1. *Mass. Arch.*, vol. 137, 25, 26.

JAMES WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Watertown Augt 9th 1775

last Evening arrived here a Gentn from Machias with an Acct of their haveing taken two other Tenders. so that they now have five prizes; three Tenders. & two Sloops taken from Jones. 28 Prisoners are on the road. & will be hear this day. among whom is old Ichabod Jones. the rest are Leuts. of Men of War. Midshipmen. & Seamen. five Sloops after wood. & fresh Provisions are taken by [Colonel James] Cargill & others & Carried into Penobscot this is doing great Service. they are reduced to great straits for wood as well as fresh provisions in Boston. it is said it would fetch three Gueneas a Cord. they have already Burnt all the fences &c.

1. *Adams Family Papers*, MassHS.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston August 9th 1775

Sir./ I have the honor to inclose you Copy of a letter I have Just received from Mr [John] Bourmaster, who wants the Men taken from him, to enable him to go to sea; The *Symmetry* being Ordered out. Your Men from her will be returned, and for those in the Scows you will have Marines sent.

I am to Inform you I have Just received dispatches from Nova Scotia, & I inclose you Extracts of a letter from Governor [Francis] Legge, which Appear to be of the Utmost consequence, and likewise extract of Another letter by which you will see, that notwithstanding you have told me Vessels were cruizing in the Bay of Fundy, None have Appeared there, and that the Pirates Obstructs every refreshment coming to us, from that Quarter,

I am with the greatest Regard and Esteem Sir &ca

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO LORD WILLIAM CAMPBELL, GOVERNOR
OF SOUTH CAROLINA ¹

(Copy)

Boston 9th August 1775

My Lord, I have the honor to Acknowledge your Lordships letter of the 1st July and am sorry to hear South Carolina is in such Confusion, but Congresses, and Committees seem to have the Rule of every Province. You will have heard of Another Action that happened here on the 17th June, between the Kings Troops, and the Rebels, An Account of which I sent to Lieutenant Governor [William] Bull; not knowing your Lordship was Arrived.

Captain [James] Montague of His Majesty's Sloop *Kings Fisher*, takes this Letter to Virginia, from whence I hope he will be enabled to send it to you: I have received the reinforcements your Lordship Mentions, and much more must be done before Matters will be brought to a Conclusion. I fear a long and Bloody War between Great Britain, and the Colonies, and not unlikely before it finishes some of the Maritime Powers may have possession of some of the Provinces, I wish your Lordship may not at length fall a prey to the Negroes.

I have the Honor to be with great Regard and Esteem, My Lord, [&c.]

1. Gage Papers, CL.

CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU, R.N., TO LORD DUNMORE ¹

My Lord,

Fowey at Boston August the 9th 1775

From the innumerable marks of your Lordships friendships, and your great politeness to me during my most agreeable stay in Virginia, makes me flatter myself a line from one (whose gratitude for these favours, cannot be express'd) will not be disagreeable, which I reflect on the ma[n]y happy days we pass'd under your Lordships very hospitable roof, and the present melancholy objects before our Eyes, we cannot avoid being cast down; to see a town full of wounded Officers and soldiers, without a morsal of fresh Provisions or a likelihood of geting any is a very moving sight. Murmurings and discontents, with (I am sorry to say) great justice prevail Every where; The G-----l and Ad----l on bad terms,

the latter universally despis'd, his character prostituted in the basest manner, totally ignorant of the business he is employ'd on; he only turns his mind to find out ways of promoting his Nephews, which if he could, he would have done by breaking me, for sending home [Henry] Collins – On my arrivall he order'd me to give him my reasons in writing for so doing, which I did, and where as I have enclos'd you, but not being satisfactory, he order'd me on board my Ship, refusing to look at my papers I had to show him respecting the Ship, I have not seen him since – he told me I must answer the consequences – which I suppose would be by a Court Martial, if he could bring me under any articles of War, should that be the case, I shall be obliged to trouble your Lordship, as an evidence, but fearing he may have wrote home against me, I am to beg you will write to the Admiralty in my justification. – He urges my not hiring or pressing a Vessel which I say was impracticable, and would have occasioned great delay, which can be proved by you.

I spoke to him about the *Arundell*, he asked me why you did not purchase her, for that service.

I may congratulate your Lordship on the arrival of Lady Dunmore long before this, if the prayers of her friends have prevail'd, she has had a good passage. If your Lordship will do me the honor of presenting my best respects to your family when you write I shall be much oblig'd to you.

Your Letter to the Admiral against Captain [John] Macartny will break him. – He deserves it. Enclosed I send you my answer to the Admiral's letter on that head. My Brother,² who will have the honor of presenting your Lordship with this; will tell you what we are doing. begging you to accept my sincere wishes for your health and Happiness, I have the Honor to remain –

My Lord [&c.]

Geo. Montagu.

P.S. Sandys & the other Officers of the *Fowey* beg you to accept their respectful Compliments.

August the 10th I have had a conference with my commander in chief today, the result of which is, that he finding that he cannot hurt me at a Court Martial, is glad to make the matter up, on my giving him my Honor, that my only motive for sending the Schooner [*Magdalen*] home was my zeal for the Service. Notwithstanding I beg your Lordship will write to the Admiralty.

1. *Aspinwall Papers*, (Boston, 1871), Part II, 754-756.

2. Captain James Montagu, of the *Kingsfisher*.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO LORD DUNMORE ¹

My Lord

Preston at Boston 9th August 1775

I wrote to your Lordship the 28th of July by the Brig *John*, Hugh Kennedy Master, and am now to acknowledge the Honor of your Letter July 20th. I am entirely of your Lordships Opinion that the Ships stationed at Virginia cannot prevent the Rebels receiving supplies of Ammunition and Smuggled Goods; there is no Station that has a number of Ships and Vessels equal to that duty, and this deficiency can only be supplied from England, from whence we are in hourly Expectation of the most interesting Accounts and of considerable Reinforcements.

As these cannot I think be far off your Lordship may rely upon seeing as many Vessels arrive within your Excellency's Government as can be appropriated to it.

I cannot order Captain Montagu's Tender to be purchased, but if she is a swift Sailing Vessel would recommend her to the Captains on the Stations who certainly can make it answer to them, as Ten p.Cent is allowed to the Proprietors out of all Seizures over and above their shares.

I am My Lord [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

1. *Aspinwall Papers*, Part II, 753, 754.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL,
GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT ¹

Sr

Oyster Pond August 9th 1775 –

I have just time to acquaint your Honour, that by the request of the Provincial Congress of New York I yesterday embarked from New York with four hundred and fifty men, and this afternoon arrived here, We find that the Inhabitants are in great need of powder – There is none in New York, I spared two Hundred weight from my own Stock which was forwarded from New York to this place for the use of the York Provincials who were stationed here, of consequence our Stock is reduced to about twenty rounds a man –

The Regulars have taken the Cattle Sheep &c from Fishers Island & this day have employed themselves in the same business on Gardner's Island, when they have got through with that we may expect them upon this – I beg that your honour would with the greatest expedition possible forward to me, three hundred weight of powder, which I hope will be sufficient for the present exigency both for our own Troops and the Militia here, I am Sr in great haste [&c.]

Dav^d Wooster.

1. HM 8151, HUL.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, 9 ho. A.M. August 9th, 1775.

The mayor and some other of the magistrates attending at the door, informed one of the members that Capt. [George] Vandeput, of His Majesty's ship *Asia*, had requested to know whether he will receive a boat in lieu of that lately destroyed.

Ordered, That the mayor and magistrates be informed that it is the sense of this Congress that a new boat be built for the use of His Majesty's ship *Asia*.

Thereupon the Congress entered into a Resolution in the words following, to wit:

WHEREAS the barge ordered to built to replace the one belonging to His Majesty's ship *Asia*, lately destroyed, was, when lately finished, sawed to pieces in the night by some disorderly persons:

Resolved, That the mayor and magistrates of this city be requested to procure another barge to be built in this city for the purpose aforesaid; and all persons are

strictly enjoined not to obstruct the building the said barge, or the delivery thereof to the Commander of His Majesty's said ship, as those who shall give any obstruction thereto will be considered and treated as enemies to their country.

Ordered, That the same be published in the newspapers.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 104, 105.

HOLT's *Virginia Gazette*, NORFOLK, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1775

Norfolk, August 9.

It is with concern we mention the heats and jealousies that have arisen in this place, from some imprudencies that have been committed, and from the unlucky incidents that frequently happen in the neighbourhood of an armed force. The repetition of little occurrences of this nature generally serve for no other purpose than to inflame. It is however some little consolation to us, exposed as we are, with the rest of our country, to the unhappy designs of a certain person and his tools, that we can with so much justice pay the full tribute of respect to the uninterrupted tenour of capt. [John] Macartney's conduct, so exemplary for humanity, benevolence, and the first preservation of order and discipline.

The fifer ¹ that was confined on board the *Otter* was last night released after undergoing a strict examination by Lord Dunmore

1. Alexander Main. See August 8, 1775.

NEIL JAMIESON TO ROBERT DONALD ¹

Sir

Norfolk Augt 9 1775

Mr Emanl Walker wants Room for one hundred hhds Tobo I agree for Accot of the said Walker, to deliver you along side the Brigne *Kitty* Archd white Master, one hundred hhds Tobo to be delivered along side on or before the first of Sept^r for which you are to be alwed freight at the Rate of Thirty five Shillings Sterling P hhd. to be paid in three months After the safe delivery of the same, at the Ports of Greenock in Port Glasgow. the Tobocoës to be put along side of the said Brigne *Kitty* at Norfolk at the expence & risque of the Shipper, as also to pay at the rate of Two Shillings P hhd Sterling for import and two thirds port Charges, in proportion for the quantity Shipt if these Terms are agreeable Signify the same & it will be binding on both parties I am Sir [&c.]

Neil Jamieson

[Endorsed]

Sir I accept of your offer as above made.

Yours &c

Robert Donald

[On verso]

Agreement with R Donald for Eml Walker for fr 100. hds Tobo

1. Neil Jamieson Papers, vol. 20, LC.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA ¹

Wednesday, Aug. 9th, 1775.

Whereas, the late Continental Congress, in the fourth article of their Association for themselves and their constituents, agreed that the earnest desire they had, not to injure their fellow subjects in Great Britain, Ireland and the West Indies, induced them to suspend a non-exportation, until the 10th day of September, 1775; at which time, if the said acts and parts of acts of the British Parliament thereafter mentioned, should not be repealed; they would not directly or indirectly export any any commodity whatsoever, to Great Britain, Ireland or the West Indies, except rice to Europe. And, whereas, information hath been made to the committee, that several merchants and traders, in the town of Wilmington, understand the said article, in this sense, that is to say, that if any ship or vessel should, before the said 10th day of Sept., begin to load, time and liberty would be allowed to complete the loading, at any time, however extended, after the said 10th day of September, which would be a flagrant infraction of the said Association.

Resolved, therefore, That no ship or vessel, on any pretence whatever, shall take on board any merchandises or commodities from and after the 10th day of September next; nor shall any person or persons presume to ship any goods, wares, or merchandises, on board of any ship or vessel, from and after the said 10th day of September, on pain of the displeasure of the public.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 151.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775 [Off Georgia Coast]

Aug. 9. Fresh gales at N.E. plying to windward with all sail set, and a growing sea. Lat obsd. 31 50.

1. "Hatter's Report", Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

10 Aug.JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S BRIG *Gaspee*, LIEUT. WILLIAM HUNTER, COMMANDING ¹

August 1775 Aground in Lake St Francis

Thursdy 10th at ½ past 4 A M Weigh'd and Came to Sail, Cross'd the Flatts at 5 bore away at 7 Do passed Le trois Rivières at ½ past 11 Struck on the Shoal of Batteau aller St Francis fired a Gun and got a Sloop alongside Do put two, three Pounders into her and all our Swivel's, carryed out the Kedge and tryed to heave her off; after starting all our water found there was no possibility, got the Guns on board again and sent an Officer

up to Sorrel in Order to bring down some of His Majesty's
Armed Schooners to our assistance when we struck St Peters
Point Bore W S W 3 Miles
Fresh Gales and hazey with Rain at 12 P M Arrived one of
the Armed Schooners from Sorrel

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/381.

LEUTENANT JOHN KNIGHT, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Cambridge 10th Augt 1775

Sir, I am sorry to acquaint you, that on the 15th Ultimo, I, with the Surgeon
& a Boats Crew, was detain'd on Shore at Machias, and the next Day His Majts
Schooner *Diligent*, and *Tatamagouche* Shallop was seized by the Inhabitants;
The particulars of which I will communicate when I have the honor of seeing
you – Mr Stillingfleet accompanied me hither, there is likewise a Seaman & a
Marine belonging to the *Preston* on the Road with the Co of the *Diligent*

I am &c

Jn^o Knight

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, 15h, LC Transcript.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO PETER VANBRUGH LIVINGSTON, PRESIDENT
OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

Camp at Cambridge Augt 10: 1775

We have had no Occurrence in the Camp for Several Days worthy of Notice:
But by some Advices from Boston & several concurring Circumstances we have
great Reason to Suspect a Part or the whole of the ministerial Troops are about
to remove: New York is the Place generally talk'd of as their Destination:—I
give you the Intelligence as it came to me, but do not vouch for it's Authenticity –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1775

Cambridge, August 10.

Our People have taken two or three of the Enemy's Vessels at Machias, at
the Eastward, with a Number of Prisoners, among whom is Ichabod Jones, a well
known Tory, who was brought to Town Yesterday, and put into Custody of the
Main Guard. The other Prisoners, we are informed, are on the Road, and may
be hourly expected.

We hear from Cape-Ann, that a Vessel bound in there from the West
Indies, being discovered off that Harbour last Tuesday, several of the Inhabitants
went off in a Boat to assist in bringing her in. Soon after, about 30 armed Men,
from the Man of War commanded by Capt. [John] Lindzee,¹ boarded and took
Possession of the Vessel; but she running aground on the Cape, was vigorously
attacked by a Number of Men from the Town of Gloucester, who soon obliged the
Enemy to give up the Vessel to the proper Owners, and to surrender themselves
Prisoners. The whole Number was immediately sent to Ipswich Goal, in which
24 of them were confined. The Rest (4 or 5 in Number) were discharged, it

appearing that they had been cruelly forced into the Enemy's Service. Lindzee was so enraged that he fired several Cannon Shot into the Town of Gloucester, but did little Damage.

The Information given us (and inserted in our last) respecting the Expedition to the Light-House, we have been since told, was rather imperfect. Maj. [Benjamin] Tupper commanded the Troops, consisting of 250. They found on the Island 53 Persons, 33 of them Marines, of whom a Lieutenant and two Privates, with three Tories were killed on the Spot. Five of the Marines, and several of the Tories, were wounded, among whom was the notorious Capt. White of Marshfield. The whole Number, besides the killed, were made Prisoners, one of whom was the Master Carpenter from New York.

1. H.M. Sloop *Falcon*.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Thursday, August 10, 1775

Colonel Prescott brought down a number of Letters found on board the vessels taken at Machias, which were committed for revision to Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Partridge, and Mr. Crane.

Afternoon

Ordered, That the Speaker, Colonel Freeman and Major Hawley, with such as the honourable Board shall join, be a committee to confer with his Excellency General Washington on the subject of a number of Letters brought from Machias.²

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 320, 321, from Mass. Arch.

2. See Washington's letter of August 11 to the committee.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 10 [August 1775]

The *Somerset*, notwithstanding all that had been done to her, continuing to make as much Water as usual in the Harbour, it became absolutely necessary to have her hoven down at Halifax; wherefore the Admiral now gave Orders accordingly, and wrote Letters by her to Governor [Francis] Legge, and Mr Morden the Storekeeper. Our Supplies also from the Contractors Agent failing at Boston, Halifax and Rhode Island, the Admiral put under the *Somerset's* Convoy one of the Victuallers (the *Fortitude*) and ordered Captain LeCras from her to compleat the Ships at Halifax with such Species of Provisions as the Contractor there could not furnish.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 169, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN EDWARD LeCRAS, R.N.¹

Whereas from the evil disposition towards his Majestys Government unfortunately spread throughout the Country, and from the more dangerous and wicked designs of those in actual Rebellion, there is every reason to apprehend his Majesty's Yard and Naval and Ordnance Stores at Halifax to be in great danger of being destroyed, And whereas I have since the middle of last April

kept his Majesty's Ship *Tartar* at Halifax entirely for its Security; you are hereby required and directed upon your arrival to take such measures for the preservation of the said Arsenal from Accident of Fire, or from any Attempts of the Rebels, as you shall think proper, and your situation and force will allow you to use. And whereas I am informed that the Ordnance Stores as well for the Army as the Navy are deposited entirely out of the Protection of the Kings Ships, and that a very small Force may remove them without hindrance from the Men of War. You are to report to me as soon as possible your opinion thereon, and upon the manner his Majesty's Yard is defended or secured at those places where the Kings Ships cannot act; and whether the removal of all or part of the Ordnance Stores to George's Island will not put them out of Danger from the Rebels. Reporting to me in general your opinion concerning the Security of his Majesty's Yard and the Stores in both Departments, and what means are proper to be used to secure the whole from open or secret Attempts of the Enemy by Sea or Land.

Given under my Hand on Board his Majts Ship *Preston* at Boston the 10 August 1775

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 169, 170, MassHS Transcript.

CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

Nantasket Road August 10 1775

I beg leave to inform you that on the 8th inst cruizing off Cape Anne in his Majesty's Sloop under my Command I discovered two Schooners under Sail standing in for the Shore. I made Sail after them and very soon came up with the Sternmost and detained her; the other got into Cape Anne Harbour whither I followed. On my anchoring the same day I sent Lieutt Thornborough with the Pinnace Long boat and Jolly Boat manned and armed in order to bring the Schooner out; the Master coming in from Sea at the same time in a small Tender, I directed him to go and assist the Lieutt. When the Boats had passed the Point of Rocks that was between the Ship and Schooner; they received a very heavy fire from the Rebels who were hidden behind Rocks and Houses and behind Schooners aground at Wharfs, but notwithstanding the Heavy fire from the Rebels, Lieutt Thornborough boarded the Schooner and was himself and three men wounded from the Shore. On the Rebels firing on the Boats I fired from the Ship into the Town to draw the Rebels from the Boats. I very soon observed the Rebels paid very little Attention to the firing from the Ship, and seeing their Fire continued very heavy in the Schooner, the Lieutt had boarded, I made an Attempt to set fire to the Town of Cape Anne and had I succeeded I flatter myself would have given the Lieutt an Opportunity of bringing the Schooner off, or have left her by the Boats, as the Rebels Attention must have been to the fire. But an American, part of my Complement, who had always been very active in our cause, set fire to the Powder before it was properly placed; Our attempt to fire the Town therefore not only failed but one of the men was blown up, and the American deserted. A second Attempt was made to set fire to the Town, but did not succeed. The Rebels coming to the Fort obliged the four men to leave it. I then began a second time to fire on the Town but the Houses being built

of Wood could do no great Damage. About four o'Clock in the Afternoon the Lieutt was brought on board under Cover of the Masters fire from the Schooner who could not leave her. All the Boats are much damaged by Shot; and lay on the side of the Schooner next the Rebels. On my being made acquainted with the Situation of the Master I sent the Prize Schooner to anchor ahead of the Schooner the Master was in, and veer along side to take him and people away, who were much exposed to the Rebels fire; but for want of an Officer to send in her it was not performed, the Vessel not anchored properly; And as, I apprehend, the Master could not see any Prospect of being assisted, and a heavy fire from the Rebels, and numbers coming to their Assistance, delivered himself up about 7 in the Evening with the Gunner, fifteen Seamen, seven Marines, one Boy and ten prest Americans. The Schooner I sent in to assist the Master on his going ashore, ran in and was retaken by the Rebels. I am inclined to think the Company of the Schooner had been hid and took that opportunity of retaking the Vessel that was sent to assist the Master. After the Master was landed I found I could not do him any good, or distress the Rebels by firing. I therefore left off. On this Occasion the Rebels took the Pinnace Jolly Boat three Swivels some small Arms and two small Anchors with one hawser that was to warp the Schooner out by. I remained at Anchor till the following Morning and then warped out in order to proceed to this place.

I am &c

John Linzee

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 473-475, MassHS Transcript. Another copy in PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] 1775 Aug 10.

Yesterday the Men o' War being absent from this Harbour on a plundering Cruise, one of the Providence Privateers armed by Governmt (of this Colony) came and took of[f] the residue of the Cannon from our Fort part[in]g 2 large 18 Pounders and carried them up to Providence, a little below which they are Fortifying. Last Decr. the most of the Cannon were removed. Several Transports coming round from Bo[ston] for Provisions, The Men o'War on this Station went out with them to Long Isld and Fishers Isld to get Stock, they took about 1130 Sheep and Thirty Head of Cattle from Fishers Isld. The *Rose* returned here the last eve[nin]g.

1. Stiles, III, 55, LC.

SILAS DEANE, CONNECTICUT DELEGATE TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS,
TO DR. BENJAMIN GALE ¹

[Extract]

Wethersfield, Aug. 10th, 1775

The Congress as you have heard make but a short recess; before the expiration of which, pray favor me with a line, and say what ground is there for the report of a certain new invention for destroying Ships. You are in the neighborhood, and therefore presume you can give me the particulars.

1. *Connecticut Historical Society, Collections*, II, 294.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW-LONDON, AUGUST 10. [1775]"¹

Last Sunday morning [August 6] about six o'clock, we discovered nine sail of ships, one brig, one snow, one schooner, and two sloops, turning up to this harbour, with the wind at N.E. which alarmed the inhabitants of this town, but we soon found their design was to take the stock off Fisher's Island, which they accomplished on that day, consisting of 1130 sheep, 40 cattle, and 10 hogs. . . .

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, Postscript, August 21, 1775.

RIVINGTON'S *New York Gazetteer*, THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1775

New York, Aug. 10.

Last night an express arrived from Cambridge, which, it is said, brings advice that General Pribble¹ had brought an account that six transports employed at Casco-Bay to procure forage and provisions for General Gage's army, had been surprized by 300 of the provincials in whale boats; five out of six of them were taken and secured in shoal water. Most of the men belonging to the transports were foraging ashore when the attack was made.

1. Jedediah Preble, representing Cumberland County in the Massachusetts General Court.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Philadelphia] August 10th [1775]

Resolved, That the Committee appointed to procure Gunpowder, &c., do, as soon as possible, import Fifty tons of Lead.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 301.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, AUG. 10 [1775]"¹

The following is the condition of the Royal Governors in America: [William] Tryon quiet on Long Island; [William] Franklin silent at Ambay; [Robert] Edin at Annapolis, a tame spectator of a spirit and virtue he thought had long deserted Englishmen; [John Murray] Dunmore, through fear of punishment, on board the *Fowey* man of war; his wife and family gone to England; [Josiah] Martin has sent his wife and children to New York, and is himself in Fort Johnson; and Lord William Campbell in the horrors at Charlestown.

Guy Johnson, Superintendant of Indian affairs, fled to Oswego, and all the Tories gone to England, Canada or Halifax for protection.

1. *London Chronicle*, September 30 to October 3, 1775.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce*
BY CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER¹

1775

[Port Royal Harbor]

Aug. 10. Light breezes of wind, set squaresail and topsail, and made Tybee Tower; and we steered in at it, through Skull Creek, and came to in Port Royal Creek. Lat. ob. 31 50. Got under sail, and at 10 A.M.

came to at Port Royal; and dispatched away an Express to Charlestown, and at 3 P.M. we landed the powder.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

11 August

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S BRIG *Gaspee*, LIEUT. WILLIAM HUNTER,
COMMANDING ¹

August 1775

Moor'd at Montreal

Fridy 11th

at 4 A M Carried out the Bt Br to the Eastward, the Schooner came alongside, put our Guns and Provisions on board her at 8 Hove off into the Channell in 3 fms Weigh'd the Kedge, 1/2 past Weigh'd & Came to Sail – Fresh Breezes wt Rain at 1 P M enter'd the Channel of Hat Island at 5 got thro' the Channel at 7 entered the Rapids at 9 Came to wt the Bt Br in 4 fms Veer'd to 1/3 of a Cable, at 10 Carried out the Kedge Anchor to Steady her – The Citadell of Montreal N W Dist 1/2 a Mile St Helen's Island S E B S 1 Mile.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/381.

THEODORE ATKINSON, SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL, TO JOHN WENTWORTH, GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE ¹

[Extract]

Portsmo, N.H. August 11th, 1775.

Sr Immediately after I received your Excellencys Letter of Yesterdays date (which was about 10 o'Clock this Morn) relative to the Inhabitants of this Town firing on Capt [Andrew] Barkley's Boat I sumoned the Council to meet at 12, but did not make a Quorum till this afternoon when the Council was Truely Informed that a Town Meeting was Immedately Notified & a very full Meeting of the Inhabitants appeared & regularly & Deliberately Pass'd a Vote with a large & uncommon Majority in which they disapproved the Transaction &c. your Excellency herewith hath the vote of the Meeting attested, and also the minute of Council.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 388; *ibid.*, XVIII, 672, 673.

BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO JAMES OTIS, PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Sir

Head Quarters 11th Augt 1775: –

By Order of The Commander in Chief I send to wait your Orders, an Officers Party to Escort Seventeen Seamen taken Prisoners at Machias, and One Tory, Ichabod Jones; thirty Prisoners more taken at Cape Ann, will be at Watertown to day. I believe you will think it best to Detain this party at Watertown, until that [from] Cape Ann Arrives, when they may have your Orders to what

Town they are to March to be confin'd. I have already sent a Number of Prisoners to Springfield & Torys to Worcester. perhaps you may approve of placing these at Northampton, as there are so many at present at Springfield. I am, Sir [&c.]

Horatio Gates Adj't Genl

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 128.

"LIST OF PRISONERS TAKEN AT CAPE ANN, BELONGING TO THE *Falcon* SLOOP OF WAR"¹

[August 11, 1775]

Robert Arnold, Master
Wm Robert Broton, Midshipman
Philabeth Demett, Midshipman
Justin Budd – Gunner
John Backster – Doctr's Servant
Hugh Hughes – Marine
Thomas Nash – Do
Jonathan Ellis – Do
Abraham Elliot – Do
Gyles Jones – Do
John Mechum – Do
William Allen – Steward
William Rickets – Capt of Forecastle
Hugh Jones – Sail Maker
Michael Love – Sailor
Thomas Taylor – Gunner Yeoman
William Mackey, Quarter Master
John McRady impress'd – released

Michael Flynn since
Sick and Remaining in Ipswich
Goal –
Samuel Burd – impress'd
John Doyl – Sailor
Mathew Cornish – Marine
John Clark – Cook's Mate
Wounded –
John Warrick Quarter Master
Joseph Murray – Quarter Gunner
Killed
John Molloy – formerly of Salem
Taken – belonging formerly to Cape
Ann – and are now there –
Duncan Piper
William Putam
George Rigg
Jno Cleaveland

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO A COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY¹

[Extract]

Camp at Cambridge, Augt 11. 1775

I have considered the Papers you left with me Yesterday; those of them which relate to [Ichabod] Jones shew him to be a malignant & inveterate Enemy to his Country and I trust he will meet with his Deserts; but I have such various & important Matters requiring my constant Attention that I must beg Leave to refer him and all others under Similar Circumstances to the Authority of the Province for punishment & safe Custody . . . As to the Expedition proposed against Nova Scotia by the Inhabitants of Machias, I cannot but Applaud their Spirit and Zeal, but after considering the Reasons offer'd for it, there are Several Objections occur which seem to me unanswerable. I apprehend Such an Enterprize inconsistent with the General Principle upon which the Colonies have

proceeded That Province has not acceded, it is true, to the Measures of Congress; & therefore they have been excluded from all Commercial Intercourse with the other Colonies; But they have not commenc'd Hostilities against them, nor are any to be apprehended – To attack *them* therefore is a Measure of Conquest rather than Defence, & may be attended with very Dangerous Consequences – It might perhaps be easy with the Force propos'd to make an Excursion into the Province & overawe those of the Inhabitants who are Inimical to our Cause & for a short time prevent the Supplying the Enemy with Provisions – but the Same Force must Continue to produce any lasting Effects – As to the furnishing Vessells of Force; You Gentlemen will Anticipate me in pointing out our Weakness & the Enemy's Strength at Sea – There wou'd be great Danger that with the best Preparation we could make, they would fall an easy Prey either to the Men of War on that Station or Some who would be Detach'd from Boston – I have been thus particular to Satisfy any Gentlemen of the Court who should incline to adopt the Measure: I could offer many other Reasons against it, some of which I doubt not will suggest themselves to the Hon: Board – But it is unnecessary to enumerate them when our Situation as to Amunition absolutely forbids our Sending a Single Ounce out of the Camp at present –

I am Gent &c

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOSEPH PALMER, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MASSACHUSETTS,
TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the Honbl Governor [Nicholas] Cooke's Letter of the 8th Instt, & to his Excellency, Genl Washington's Message of yesterday by Colo [Joseph] Read, beg leave to report by way of Letter to Genl Washington

In Council August 11th 1775 –

May it please your Excellency –

We have taken into consideration the Honbl Governor Cooke's Letter, which your Excellency furnished us with; & by the Honbl John Adams Esqr from the American Congress, we are informed that the Powder mentioned, has been sent for, and is, probably, now on the Water; and Provisions are allowed to be exported, in pay for that Article –

And as to the Prisoners, we would recommend to Your Excellency, that such of 'em as are of least importance, may be received in the Jails of Ipswich & Taunton; but there is a certain Ichabod Jones, & some Officers, which, we think, had better be sent to Northampton Jail, or other inland place of Security: And we doubt not your Excellency's care to prevent such Prisoners being exchanged, or may be eminently serviceable to our Enemies – And as to the Contracts, made by the Committee of Supplies, we see not how, in honour, they can be vacated, without the Consent of both parties; but if

in this, or any thing else, we can assist your Excellency, to promote the General Service, You may be assured, that we shall chearfully meet your warmest Wishes –

J Palmer Chairman

[Endorsed] Augt 11th 1775 In Council read & accepted & ordered to be forwarded to his Excy

Perez Morton Secry pro temp.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 19.

FALMOUTH COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION AND CORRESPONDENCE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

To the Honourable the Council and House of Representatives for the Province of Massachusetts-Bay, now sitting at Watertown.

The Committee of Inspection and Correspondence for the Town of Falmouth humbly sheweth: That on information that the brig *Sally*, from the West Indies, laden with Sugar and Molasses, commanded by Captain Edward Grisbym and owned by Mr. Joseph Sherburne, suspected to be for the British Army now in Boston, we thought fit to send for the Captain, and find by him he has orders to proceed with said Brig and Cargo to Swanzy, to Colonel Bowers's wharf, for which reason we thought fit to stop said Brig and Cargo, supposing it impossible for them to proceed to Swanzy with Safety, and have ordered her to be detained at Falmouth until your Honours shall give orders how said Brig shall be proceeded with, &c. We, your petitioners, therefore pray your Honours to take the affair under your consideration and order, as you in wisdom shall see fit. And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

Jn^o Grannis Nathaniel Shiverick
Clerks for Committee of Correspondence

Falmouth, August 11, 1775

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194. See Mass. House of Rep., Aug. 16, 1775.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN EDWARD LECRAS, R.N., H.M.S. *Somerset* ¹

Whereas there is certain information that the Rebels have 5 or 6 Sail of large Schooners and Sloops armed and full of men, cruizing in and about the Bay of Fundy to intercept Vessels bringing fresh Provisions, Hay and Fuel to Boston, of which the Garrison is in the greatest Want, the Lives of a very considerable Number depending upon speedily receiving fresh Meat; and whereas his Majesty's Schooners *St Lawrence* and *Hope* sailed the 19th of last month to convoy the Transports as pr Margin to Annapolis Royal, with Orders to bring from Windsor in the Bay of Fundy Six or more vessels laden with Cattle for this Garrison, and his Majesty's Sloop *Senegal* being likewise in Penobscot Bay with four Transports and three Sloops endeavouring to procure fuel; and whereas every precaution ought to be taken to prevent disgrace to his Majesty's Arms and to secure the Supplies we are in such need of from any pyratrical Attempts of the Rebels: You are

hereby required and directed, as soon after your arrival as possible, to apply to Governor [Francis] Legge for such Information respecting the Rebel Pyrates as his Excellency can give, and having informed yourself from Captain [Edward] Medows, or by any other means you think proper of the situation of his Majesty's Affairs in the Province of Nova Scotia, particularly with respect to the Rebels Designs on any Magazine, Forts, Towns or Shipping, and of the number and force of the Pyrates said to be at Sea and their cruising Stations, You are to order Capt. Medows to range along the Coast of Nova Scotia, and to go into the Bay of Fundy as high as Annapolis Royal where I would have him anchor, and inform himself if any Vessels are in the Harbours near him, waiting for Convoy or nearly ready to depart for Boston, to assist in gathering them together and to take them all under his Convoy and proceed with them to Boston. In case there shall be no Vessels bound this way with supplies of any kind for this Garrison or Fleet, you are to order Captain Medows to visit as many of the Harbours along the Coast on his way to Boston as he can; My Intention being for the *Tartar* to collect if possible all the trading Vessels bound here, and to protect and convoy them hither without delay. And you are also required and directed to give Captain Medows, and all other Captains and Commanders you may meet, Orders to take, burn, sink and destroy, all and every Pirate and Rebel wherever they can be found, and every Vessel or Person who shall be actually aiding and assisting such Pirate or Rebel; And also to order that all Vessels belonging to the four New England Governments armed, or appointed otherwise than the Wood Coasters and Traders formerly were, are to be deemed Pyrates and treated accordingly.

You are also to order Captain Medows in case of his meeting his Majesty's Schooners aforesaid, or the *Senegal*, to give their Commanders such assistance and Orders as the Kings Service may require; Observing upon the whole that the bringing Supplies of Cattle, Fuel and Hay to Boston must, be accelerated by all means in our power. And whereas the good of the Kings Service may require that other Directions and Orders may be given as well with respect to the foregoing Duties, as what may happen during your Stay at Halifax, you are in the above and all other Cases, that will not admit of waiting for my Orders, to give such Directions as the Exigencies of the Case may require and you shall think most advantageous to his Majesty's Interest.

You are upon the arrival of the Store Ship from England, to cause some of your Ships Company to assist in taking out such part of the Stores as yourself and the Naval Officer shall think best to remain in the Yard, and to secure and arrange them in proper order, And you are also to afford the Officers of the Yard all other necessary and proper Assistance for his Majesty's Service; but you are not to interfere in their respective departments except to see that due Obedience is paid to mine and the Navy Boards Orders.

You are heartily to co-operate with Governor Legge and assist him in all things for his Majesty's Service to the best of your Judgement.

Given under my Hand on board his Majts Ship *Preston* at Boston the
11 August 1775

Sam Graves

[Transports mentioned in the Margin]

Three Sisters
Ocean
Eagle
Brilliant
Diana

Sloops
Britania
Sarah
Polly

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 171-174, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA ¹

Sir,

Preston Boston 11th August 1775

I thank your Excellency for the Honor of your Letter July 21 inclosing the Deposition of Phineas Lovett also for your Letter July 27, both which I received from Lieutt [Henry] Mowat the day before yesterday. I am satisfied as well from the Circumstances mentioned in your Dispatch, as from Information procured here, that the Rebels are meditating some mischief to Halifax and other parts in your Excellency's Government; And we have no Doubt that they will endeavour to interrupt the Navigation to and from the Bay of Fundy. The *St. Lawrence* and *Hope* armed Schooners sailed from Boston the 20th of last month to convoy two Transports going for Hay to Annapolis [Royal], their Commanders have positive Orders to search for Pirates and to destroy them. They are to call at Mechais and to go as high as Windsor, if possible, to collect the Provision Vessels and bring them hither. The *Senegal* is with four Transports in Penobscot Bay and will attend them farther to the Eastward if necessary. And I have now ordered the *Scarborough* to cruize in the Station your Excellency recommended, which is certainly the best to secure the Navigation of the Bay and adjacent Coast, and for intercepting Pirates. If they can be once shut out from the Bay, our Cruizers will reduce them to the necessity of fighting, or of skulking where they cannot annoy Vessels passing; And I hope we shall soon give perfect Security to all legal Traders.

I have not heard before of the Vessels at Pemaquid, but the Rebels will no Doubt get as many fitted out as they can, and it must be our business to destroy them.

In my opinion there is very little dependence on the Natives in any of the Provinces, who are running blindfold into the worst of governments, and are at present so intoxicated with Notions of Deliverance as they call it from Slavery, and so perfectly submissive and obedient to the Commands of their Congress, that we must expect every Consequence of such Infatuation. Capt. [Edward] LeCras while he stays at Halifax has full Power from me to assist your Excellency, and in general to take such steps for the immediate protection and security of every thing belonging to his Majesty as his Situation and Force will allow. And if your Excellency thinks it right to send Cannon and Ammunition to Annapolis, he will order Captain [Edward] Medows to convey it there.

Your Excellency may be assured that I shall do the utmost in my power at all times for the publick good, and receive with pleasure every Intelligence your Excellency can send me for that purpose. I am &c

Sam Graves

P S. I beg leave to offer my opinion to your Excellency not to send Cannon or Ammunition, except where there is a sufficient Number of Regulars in Garrison.

S. G.

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 475-477, MassHS Transcript.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE FRACAS BETWEEN VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES AND BENJAMIN HALLOWELL, ONE OF HIS MAJESTY'S CUSTOM COMMISSIONERS ¹

The affair happened on the 12th [sic 11th] of August [1775] . . . The Admiral was going to the General's, when Mr. H-----ll made after and overtook him, and insisted upon an answer to some letters, but the Admiral said he would never answer them; Mr. H-----ll repeated his demands several times, and the Admiral always made the same reply: then says Mr. H-----ll, *you are no Gentleman but a Scoundrel* upon which the Admiral hitting him a very slight slap in the face, drew his sword, and Mr. H-----ll cried out, *what draw a sword upon a naked man, give me a stick, a stone*, and made a noise to bring people round him. The Admiral immediately returned his sword to the scabbard, and walked on slowly towards the General's; but Mr. H-----ll picked up a stone, followed him again, and called out to speak to him, upon which the Admiral stopped to let him do so, imagining probably he meant to challenge him, when Mr. H-----ll coming close up, in a low whispering voice said, *you are a damned scoundrel*, whereupon the Admiral struck with his fist with great resentment, cutting him across the nose with his knuckles so as to make the blood trickle, and a scuffle ensued. The mob, which had collected very fast, now pressed in and squeezed upon both, which gave an opportunity to Mr. H-----ll to take away the Admiral's sword, but a soldier perceiving this, caught hold of the sword, and in the struggle between them it was broke. I can't suppose, as some of the spectators fancied, that Mr. H-----ll meant in his passion to stab the Admiral, but it looked to me if it had not been for the mob, the Admiral, although he must be near 60, would have drubbed Mr. H-----ll confoundedly, notwithstanding he is a stout young man of 34 or 35 years of age; as it was, he was blind for a week as they told me. By Mr H-----ll's coming without a sword, it seemed plain that he designed to make a mobbish affair of it, and in such circumstances I do not see how the Admiral could act otherwise than he did. The true cause, or merits of the altercation I know nothing of myself, but it was reported that Mr. H-----ll had long bore a grudge to the Admiral for bringing a relation (a Captain of a man of war) to a court martial for disobedience of orders; although the immediate pretence for this attack I understood to arise from the Admiral's not granting Mr. H-----ll a pass for some men to go down the harbour to cut hay on Gallops island; the Admiral's friends gave out that he did not think it just or equal for any one man to engross

(in a time of such scarcity) so much hay to himself, that the brother-in-law of Mr. H-----ll commanded the man of war then near Gallop's island, that the army was in great want of provender for their horses there being 17 or 18 marines employed to cut grass for them, the ships generally weak in hands, and information received of 170 whaleboats having been drawn over a narrow neck of land with intent to burn and plunder the islands; besides which, Mr. H-----ll's requests and letters were so improper, and in such gross and indecent terms, as to be entitled to no answer. I pretend however to form no judgment of the matter, and am a stranger to both parties. Mr. H-----ll is a native of Boston, the son of a Carpenter, bred to the sea, much liked in the town, universally known to the navy and people, and bears a good character: the Admiral is counted by the fleet a good seaman and brave, and is very active, but somewhat severe, of few words, and rough in his manner.

1. This account is contained in a letter from Portsmouth, England, to *London Chronicle*, written by a gentleman who stated, "I came home from Boston in the transport lately arrived, and have since been shewn an article in a news-paper giving so unjustifiable an account of the scuffle in the streets between Admiral Greaves and Commissioner Holowell, that I think it a piece of justice to the public to relate what really passed, being by accident an eye and ear witness." The letter, dated Oct. 24, 1775, appeared in the *Chronicle* in the Postscript of its issue of Oct. 31–Nov. 2, 1775.

NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND, TO
GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

Providence August 11th 1775

Sir, Since my last to you Mr [Samuel] Ward One of the Delegates hath returned from the Congress. He informs me that some of the Bermudians have been at Philadelphia – soliciting for Liberty to import Provisions for the Use of the Island. They gave Information of the Powder mentioned in your Letter to me, and were of Opinion it might easily be obtained. They were told by the Delegates that every Vessel they should send to the Northward with Powder should be permitted to carry Provisions to the Island. – Whether their Situation will not probably prevent them from bringing the Powder I submit to your Excellency – Mr. [Elisha] Porter, and Mr Harris are both here. To Mr Porter, who can fully inform you in the Matter I refer you.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

WILLIAM LUX AND MATTHEW RIDLEY TO THE MARYLAND CONVENTION¹

Gentlemen

Annapolis August the 11th 1775

We are jointly with Mr William Russell and Mr Daniel Bowly of Baltimore Town Owners of the Brig *Nancy*, Capt Lund; Sometime in the month of May last we chartered this Brig to Messrs Wallace Davidson & Johnson to load with Tobacco in Potowmack for London. She is now loaded and ready to clear out on her intended Voyage; but she having lain longer by a considerable time than was expected in collecting her cargo, and the season having been remarkably dry – the worms have injured her bottom to such a degree as to render her unfit to proceed to Sea: and before she can do so, her Cargo must be relanded and her Bottom sheathed. Work of this kind cannot be done where she lays.

We must have her up to Baltimore. Under these circumstances, the work being tedious, we are apprehensive the Vessel cannot be finishd previous to the 10th of September. It is our wish to make Rules formed for the benefit of the Community, our line of Conduct, nor would we, we assure you Gentlemen, under any specious pretences, endeavour to infringe them. Our situation is a very peculiar one. We beg you will take it into consideration, and allow us, if not in our power to do it before, to reload the above Cargo after the 10th of September. The Vessel & Cargo shall be cleared out before. To obviate every suspicion that may arise of intentions to counteract the general Resolves, we desire to be sworn as to the fitness, and condition of the Vessel to take in her Cargo at the time of her going from Baltimore to Potowmack.

We know the arduous business in which you are now engaged Gentlemen must take up much of your attentions; – We are sorry to be an interruption to it, but hope our situation will be a sufficient apology, as well as further excuse us, in desiring your speedy directions in this business. The Condition of the Vessel being such as to render some immediate steps necessary to be taken with her.

We are with respect,²

Gentlemen [&c.]

Will^m Lux Matt^w Ridley

1. Md. Arch., Red Book, No. 13.

2. The Maryland Convention received the letter the same day, and came to the following decision: “Resolved, that the prayer of the said memorial be granted, on proof of the allegations therein being made to the Committee of observation for Baltimore County, who are hereby empowered to examine and take the said proof, and if the said Vessel shall not be reladen and depart before 10th day of September next, then oath to be made before her departure, by the Captain and Mate, that no commodities, goods, wares or merchandise, is or shall be laden on board for Exportation, other than such as shall have been laden on Board, as part of her Cargo, before the said 10th day of September, and shall have been reladed”. Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*, XI, 13, 14.

DR. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL TO ST. GEORGE TUCKER, BERMUDA ¹

[Extract]

Norfolk Augt. 11th 1775

Dr Sir I recivd your favors of the 11th & 25th ulto the Accounts of your Safe Arrivall afforded us great pleasure I intended writting you by Capt Hudson, but he Slipt of[f] too Soon for me – . . . I propose, to pay you a visite, this Winter from the present Prospects I am affraid we shall have a very disagreeable time of it here, we expect that this Town will soon be garison’d either with Regulars or Provincials; Should it become the Seat of either it will be equally Disagreeable to the Inhabitants, & make property very precarious . . .

I observe what you Say concerning the Scheme of Lodging Crops in Bermuda. – for the time, our Convention has putt a stop, to it by laying a prohibition, on the Exportation of all Artcles of Provisions, but Corn, which only Continues till the 10th Septr this they did on a Supposition, that there had been agents employd to buy up those Articles for the use of General [Thomas] Gage’s Army, but which I believe was without foundation, but I believe its not very likely that our Ports will again be open’d untill our Accomodation takes place and indeed I am not without some Apprehensions of your Suffering in Bermuda, unless, the Generall Congress, grants your Petition of allowing you necessary

Supplies & even in that case the officers of our Custom House refuse to clear out vessels (agreeable to the restraining Act) either to Bermuda or [New] Providence Saying that they are particularly designed, by themselves Sommer & Bohamas Islands & not any of His Majestys West India Islands but Surely they never mean't to exclude these Islands from having Provisions; but I am in hopes that the Congress will consider you, as Americans that wish well to their Cause & Supply you – if not you must open a Trade with Canada and the Florida's & a little smuggling, into the out Ports & Bays of the different Colonys. . . .

Arch^d Campbell

P S. Since writting the above the Convention have opened the Ports till the 10th of Sept^r as Merriland would not move in to the plan –

1. Tucker-Coleman Papers, CW.

ARTHUR MIDDLETON TO WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON¹

[Extract]

Charles Town, August 11, 1775

I cannot let this opportunity slip without giving you a piece of intelligence, which I am sure will please you. Our Admiral² and his crew have behaved like heroes; they have lightened Capt. Loftres of six tons of the needful; they surprised a superior crew, and took it out of the vessel lying at anchor within a mile of the castle of [St.] Augustine; ten soldiers were on board, but luckily they had no arms with them; in short, Providence favored us in all points of winds, seas, tides, &c.

A. Middleton

1. R. W. Gibbes, ed., *Documentary History of the American Revolution, 1764–1776* . . . (New York, 1855), vol. I, 135, 136. Hereafter cited as Gibbes, ed., *Documentary History*. Middleton was a member of the South Carolina Council of Safety, and Drayton was at Ninety-Six, on a mission involving the Cherokee Indians.

2. Clement Lempriere; see instructions to him of July 24, 1775.

HENRY LAURENS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY, TO WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON¹

Sir

Charles Town 11. August 1775

Inclosed you will find Copies of three Letters the Contents of which are very alarming. – one dated 6th Inst from the Committee of Augusta to the Council of Safety at Savanna – one from that Council dated the 8th to the Council of Safety in Charles Town & the third from Capt Moses Kirkland² to his late Lieutent [Hugh] Middleton, which are recommended by the Council of Safety to your particular attention.

I have by order of the Council & by the bearer of this written to Collo [William] Thomson & inclosed to him Copies of the abovementioned Letters.

Collo Thomson is enjoined to exert his utmost endeavours for the Interest of the general Cause in this dangerous conjuncture & to avail himself if possible of your advice – If you are in the neighborhood of his Camp he will lay before you his Instructions, which from necessity are general, & the Council of Safety being perfectly satisfied that you will leave nothing undone that shall appear to be necessary have not charged me with any particular direction to trouble you with.

I flatter myself with hopes that your success in the main business of your journey will be found to have anticipated our wishes & that the intelligence from Augusta will prove unbottomed. – I am with great regard Sir by Order –

P.S. you know what ought to be done when practicable with Safety in the Case of Kirkland

this Instant a Letter returned from Capt. [Clement] Lempriere arrived with Success beyond expectation – Six Tons – collected at Sea. –³

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, I, 126, 127. Drayton and Rev. William Tennant had been sent to the western frontier to pacify the Cherokees and prevent a Tory insurrection.
2. Moses Kirkland, a captain in the Provincial Militia, who had declared for the King.
3. Taken in St. Augustine harbor.

12 Aug.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Saturday, August 12, 1775 Afternoon

The Petition from Deer Island, presented to the late [Provincial] Congress was read, and committed to Captain Parker, Major Howard, and Mr. Woodbridge.

Mr. Cushing brought down from the Board a Letter from his Excellency General Washington, concerning the state of the Army and the propriety of fitting out Privateers.²

Ordered, That Colonel Sawyer, Colonel Cushing, and Mr. Cushing, be a Committee to consider the aforementioned Letter and report thereon.

1. Mass. Arch.
2. Washington's letter of Aug. 11, 1775.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston 12th August 1775 –

Sir, I am Credibly informed that the Rebels, have fitted out some Armed Vessels and a number of Boats, to intercept the Transports under the direction of Lieutenant Evans, as those ships are Daily expected, I am to beg the favor of you to send Immediately some Vessel of Force to protect them, as their Cargoes (exclusive of the Ships) would be a great loss to this place; I should suppose the Rebels will make their attempt on the Ships coming in with the land.

I am with Regard and Esteem Sir &ca

1. Gage Papers, CL.

SAMUEL WARD TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ¹

[Extract]

Providence, 12th Augst 1775

On my Return [from Philadelphia] I found the People of Connecticut in Arms for Sixty Miles; a Fleet of twelve Sail of Men of war and Transports had been at the Mouth of New London Harbour; an Attack was expected from them, but they only went to Fishers Island and got about 1000 Sheep and Lambs and 30 head of indifferent horned Cattle, the only fat ones being brought off a few Days before. The Wretch who owns the Island had sold his Stock undoubtedly, for

his Tenant had made yards down by the Sea and got his Sheep and Cattle ready for them before they landed; the People deeply resent his Behaviour. The Fleet then stood for Gardners Island but a Number of armed Men probably prevented their Landing for they got no Stock save at Fishers Island: [James] Wallace and [James] Ayscough and Part of this Fleet returned to Newport and again terrified the People by making every Preparation as if they intended instantly to fire upon them: They stopped the Ferry Boats, strictly examined every Person and took down the Names. They had heard of my Return and expected I should have gone to Newport and were in Hopes of getting one Delegate into their Possession; They took the western Post Rider and propose to send the Mail to Boston. I hope no Letters of Consequence may be in it, but however that may be this shews the impropriety of the Posts passing those Ferries.

1. Du Simitière Collection, Library Co. of Philadelphia.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1775

Providence, August 12.

A Gentleman from Goldsborough, at the Eastward, informs, that about the Middle of July, two armed Vessels, one of 8, the other of 4 Carriage Guns, were sent by Admiral [Samuel] Greaves, on a piratical Cruise to the eastern Parts of the Massachusetts, and venturing too far up Machias River, the Inhabitants of that Place attacked them in a Sloop they had fitted for the Purpose, and took them both, without losing a Man. – The Machias People have now three armed Vessels, which they took from the Enemy; the largest of them is supposed to be worth £800 sterling – About the same time, five Sloops, that had been sent by General [Thomas] Gage for Wood, were taken by the Inhabitants of Major-Baggadoose, a small new Settlement, not far from Fort Pownall; and as there was some Reason to fear that the Fort, which stood at the Head of Penobscot Bay, might be taken by the King's Troops, and made use of against the Country, the People in that Neighbourhood dismantled it, and burnt the Block-House and all the wooden Work to the Ground. – The Prisoners taken at Machias, and at Major-Baggadooss, about forty in Number, were on their way to Cambridge when the Gentleman who brings this Account came away; Among them is Capt. Ichabod Jones, an infamous Tory, who went down in the first armed Vessel that was some Time ago taken at Machias.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Glasgow*, TYRINGHAM HOWE, COMMANDING ¹

1775 Augt. [Rhode Island Harbor]

Saturday 12 at 6 A M the Et end of long Island 3 miles Block Island N E b
 E 7 Lgs at 9 spoke Genl Gages Sloop for Boston –
 at 1 P M Point Judith N b W 4 Miles lighthouse N E b N 7 Miles
 at ½ past 3 Anchor'd in Rhode Island harbour & moord Ship a
 Cable each way Do Came on board our acting Lieut. with the
 People ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

2. The prize crews which had carried the two brigs, taken July 8, into Boston.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] August 12th [1775].

At a second Meeting of the Committee, in Consequence of the arrival of three Ministerial Officers in the Ship *Hope*, George Curwin, Mr. from Cork. Present: Benjamin Franklin, Owen Biddle, Daniel Roberdeau, George Gray, Samuel Morris, jun'r., Andrew Allen, Robert Morris, Thomas Warton, jun'r., George Ross, Robert White.

An Order was Issued from this Board to Capt. William Bradford of the 2nd Battalion, for him to take into his Custody Major Chris'r French, Ensign, John Rotton, Ministerial Officers, and Terence McDermot, Cadet in the Ministerial Army, with their attendants, and bring them before this Board.

Resolved, That the Meeting of this Committee be adjourned to 3 o'clock, then to meet at Smith's Tavern, where Capt. Bradford is desired to conduct the above mentioned Officers.

Agreeable to the adjournment of this day, the Members then present met at Smith's Tavern.

In consequence of the orders Issued to Capt. Bradford this day, the officers therein mentioned was taken into Custody, & brought to this Board from Gloucester, And, upon mature deliberation, finding that the said Christopher French, Major in his Majesty's 22nd Regiment of Foot, John Rotton in his Majesty's 47th Regiment of Foot, Ensign, And Terence McDermot, a Voluntier in his Majesty's Army, having designedly came hither with an intention of joining the Ministerial Army at Boston, under the command of General Gage, who is now acting in a Hostile & cruel manner against his Majesty's American Subjects, it is

Resolved, to prevent the said officers & Voluntiers becoming additional Instruments of oppression, That they shall respectively sign the following Instrument of writing, vizt.:

I, Christopher French, Major of His Majesty's 22nd Regiment of Foot, a Prisoner in the Power of the Committee of Safety for the Province of Pennsylvania, and being kindly treated and protected by them, and enlarged on parole, Do Hereby Solemnly Promise and engage, on the Honor of a Soldier and a Gentleman, That I will not bear Arms against the American United Colonies in any manner whatever, for the space of twelve Months, or untill I may be Exchanged, nor will I, during that time, take any Measures to give intelligence to General Gage, or the British Ministry, or to any Person or Persons whatever, relative to American Affairs, but will proceed with all convenient expedition to the Camp of General Washington, and Submit myself to his further directions, and that I will not directly or indirectly attempt to procure any Person or Persons whatever to rescue me, and that I will not go on board any Brittish Ship of War during the continuance of my engagement not to bear arms.

Philadelphia, 12th August, 1775.

The above engagements being drawn up, were presented to the said Officers and Cadets, were approved of & signed by them seperately. They requesting a Certified Copy of the same; it was agreed to and deliver'd them.

There being imported in said ship *Hope*, Capt. Curwin, the following Packages of goods, Vizt:

6 Bales for the	40th Regt.	
2 ditto. for the	40th do.	
1 Box for the	40th do.	James Morrison.
1 do.	45th do.	Capt. Moore.
2 do.	45th do.	Ensign Percy.
1 Vallice	44th do.	
6 Bales	22d do.	
1 Chest }	22d do.	William Stapleton.
1 Trunk }		
1 Chest }	22d do.	George Clighorn.
1 Trunk }		
1 Portmanteau }		
1 Box without mark or Number.		
Baggage for Lieut. Archd French.		
Officers Baggage.		
2 Trunks for Major French.		
1 Valice for	do.	
1 Trunk }		
2 Canteens }	for Ensign Rotton.	
1 Bed Box }		
1 Hatt Case }		
2 Trunks }	for Cadet McDermot.	
1 Bed Box }		
1 Small Box }		
1 Valice }		

Which Goods being for the use of the Army under the Command of General Gage, and baggage belonging to the Officers who came in said ship, it is

Resolved, That the said Goods, brought from said ships in one of the Armed Boats of this Province, shall be stored 'till this Committee shall receive directions from the Continental Congress for the disposal of the same, unless it may be thought necessary by this Committee, before the meeting of the said Congress, to remove or otherwise dispose of them, and that this Committee write to General Washington, informing him of the transactions of this Board relative to the said officers and Goods.

Resolved, That Colo. Roberdeau desire Capt. William Bradford to deliver the Baggage belonging to Major French, Ensign Rotton, and Mr. McDermot, a voluntier, when required.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN THOMAS MASON ¹[July 10 to August 12, 1775] ²

1775 the 10th of July – Being a Stagnation of all kind of Business my Curiosity [led] me to proceed with General [Horatio] Gates, to Cambridge,³ and after my [arriv]el there, I was politely Introduced by that Gentleman, to General Washington, who in a Few hours Became Acquainted with my Abilities as a Seaman – à man of propperty & Capable of Exicuteing any plan of a Voyage, that may be proposed, Either in the Servis of the States, or O[the]rwise ⁴ – General Washington acquainted me with the State of the Arme[y] in Respect to Amunition, and Requestd on my Return to Philadelphia – that I would use my Interest with other Gentlemen & proceed on [a] Voyage to Europe for a Cargoe – to which I g[a]ve him my promis[e] The Day Following Departed & on the First of August arived in Philadelphia – and in Conformity I waited on Several Gentlemen of [Fort]une [so]me of whom would have gladly Accepted, had they Be[e]n provided with Cash or Funds in Europe – in the Course of my applications Messrs Morris & Winey agreed to be a party Concerned, on the Following Plan –

First they were to Load a Schooner with Flour on their own Accounts,⁵ & in addition to give me their Seperate Drafts for £[80]0 Sterling Each, to which I was to add an Equal Sum for my proportion the vessel to proceed to Europe with her Cargo, on their Accounts & Return on Acct of Thomas Mason & Co mutually on the thirds – while the Schooner was Loading I Repeatedly Acquainted Messrs Morris & Winey – that in Case we Increased our Capital – I was Confident that something would Turn up, while in Europe, to be worth our Attention – on the 8th of august Mr Morris Desired me to waulk into his house, that he and Mr Winey had somethin[g] to Say – Respecting the Future Oppérations of the Voyage ⁶ – after I was Seated in his Back parlour – Mr Morris acquainted me, they had Considered my Late proposals, and Concluded to give me their addit[ional] Credit for £500 Sterling Each, To which I was also to add £500 more on my Own Acct – Mr Morris then said, as the Dispute was Become Searious – Betwen us & England – that in his opinion, Bills Drawn on them, was Rather precarious, and he had his Doubts Respecting the Fate of ours – But should the Bills of Either party be protested, on whomsoever the same may Fall – was to be made Good by the party Deficient, on my Return to Philadelphia – that as the Voyage was precarious and uncertain no unforeseen Accident happening should alter our Plan Homewards by the thirds – he also Requested in Case anything should offer, worth my Attention & I Could Obtain a Credit, to Accept of the Same & that every Transaction of mine should be on a[cct.] of Thomas Mason & Co by the Thirds – which is agreable to the Latter part of Mr Morris's Orders – on acct and Risque pr Agreement – Mr Winey Solemnly agreed with Mr Morris's proposals – and his Ideas Respecting Bills of

Exchange – though he said, he was still Purchasing From the Lieftennant Govener of Georgia at 150 Exchange & Remiting to Messrs Pigon & Booth Merchant[s] in London

these Decleration[s] were Virbely made when the Fate of our Bills was not known, & the Success of the Voyage precarious & Uncertain – in Case of Accident, on my part Shurely Gentlemen I had a Right to the same Claims, they proposed for themselves, thoug[h] it now appears – their Virble Contract of honour was Only Given, To alter, as Circomstances may happen –

On the 11th of August the Vessal being Loaded, I waited on Mr Morris for his Orders, which Expressly says – if you Lay out £3600 stirling in our Account – you are to add £1800 – on your Own, and so in proportion – Note, a Greater or Lesser sum by the thirds – on the 12th do I Departed.

1. Robert Morris Misc., LC, endorsed for identification, "Letters from Robert Morris and Jacob Winey. Also, Extracts from Thos. Mason's Journal of a voyage to Europe in which Morris and Winey were interested."
2. The embracing dates are stated in the journal; July 10, 1775, when he met Washington, and August 12, when he sailed for Europe.
3. Gates, who had been elected Adjutant General of the Army by the Continental Congress on June 17, 1775, did not start for Cambridge until the end of June and paused briefly in New York on July 1.
4. Although Mason calls it his journal, his reference to "the states" rather than to "the colonies" would indicate that it was written long after the period described. He inserted it in an argument he had prepared to lay before arbitrators appointed to settle a dispute between the three principals to the contract. He introduced it with, "When differences arises Between men, & submitted to Referees to adjust and settle the Same, in my Opinion a plain Candid state of Facts ought to be Layd Before them for their Government and the following is an Extract from the Journal of my proceedings – from the Commencement until the Conclusion of my Voyage."
5. In another fragment of Mason's journal, which largely duplicates the version here used, he wrote, "Capt Hamond, Mason and Patton, then Owners of a Schooner adequate for such a Voyage, Messrs. Morris and Winey agreed to Load her with Flour." This vessel was the schooner *Charming Polly*, of forty tons, jointly owned by Leonard Hammond, Thomas Mason and John Patton, Ships' Registers, Philadelphia, 1773–1775, HSP
6. The other version of the journal reads, "on the 8th of August Jacob Winey Requested me to Waulk with him to Mr. Morris's."

ROBERT EDEN, GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND, TO HIS MAJESTY'S OFFICERS FOR
THE ANNAPOLIS DISTRICT ¹

(Copy)

Annapolis 12th Aug 1775.

Gentlemen I was informed in the Country and in Town since my Return, that a very unhappy Outrage has been lately committed by burning a Vessel in West River, within your District, and destroying, and plundering her Cargoe.

I wish to have the best Information on this Matter, & therefore Apply to You, as in your Department you may be able to give it. Reports are so indistinct that I know not what to depend upon. I have heard the Affair was taken up, & examined by one of the Committees, and that this Act of Violence was against their Sentiments, as well as against the general Opinion and Inclination.

The Violence may be imputed to a general Disposition unless Suspicion be obviated by a just Representation, and I should be sorry that a general Reproach and Censure should be the Consequence of an Outrage committed by a few Rash and licentious Individuals. It will be expected from Me that I should give a Circumstantial Account of this alarming, irritating, violent Procedure; it is expedient for the general Interest & Welfare, of the Country, that such dangerous Violations of Order, and Property be checked; and I think it my Duty, by fixing the Charge of Violence and Depredation on the real Perpetrators, to prevent undeserved Imputations on the Innocent, and therefore request that You will give me the fullest and best Information that You have received, and are able to obtain of the Circumstances of this Outrage, and of the Persons concerned in it. I shall thereby be enabled to Act as my Duty and Inclination direct, and am,

With Concern at having this Occasion of giving you Trouble, Gentlemen
[&c.]

Rob^t Eden.

Honble B. Calvert, Collr
Honble J. Ridout, N Officer
Wm. Eddis Esqr Surveyor.

Annapolis District

1. Eden Transcripts, MdHS, from PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1775

Williamsburg, August 12.

Intelligence was received this morning, that a brig, which was lately taken laden with provisions, and carried into Boston by ministerial pirates, returned from thence to Norfolk last Wednesday [August 9], having on board seven officers of the regular army. We do not hear that any soldiers are come with them, or are to follow; but it is certain that the Earl of Dunmore's ship is now completed for an expedition, and that his Lordship has fitted up thirteen field pieces for service. It is apprehended he intends to commence hostilities upon York or James river very soon.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, POSTSCRIPT, SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1775

Williamsburg, August 12.

This morning an express arrived from Norfolk, with advice that mr. Hamilton of Nansemond's brig had just returned from Boston, with seven officers from General [Thomas] Gage to assist lord Dunmore in his operations against this colony, in return for the very friendly supply of provisions he received by said vessel; and we learn that his lordship has got 13 field pieces on board the ship *William*, for the use of his army at Gosport, which, it is imagined, he intends soon to put in motion.

CAPTAIN JOHN MACARTNEY, R.N., TO PAUL LOYALL, MAYOR OF NORFOLK ¹

Sir, His Majesty's Ship *Mercury*, Norfolk, August 12, 1775.

I am just informed by his Excellency Lord Dunmore, that Mr. Andrew Sprowle has received a summons to attend a Committee in Norfolk, on Thursday next. The accusations alleged against him are of a most extraordinary nature. In the summons he is charged with having harboured His Majesty's troops in the stores at Gosport. I am not surprised that a summons grounded upon such accusations should be alarming to Mr. Sprowle; particularly after the cruel and oppressive treatment Mr. [John] Schaw lately received from a mob in Norfolk.

As I do most earnestly wish, and shall, upon all occasions, endeavour to promote the public peace of this province, I think it necessary to explain to you, as chief magistrate of the Town of Norfolk, the conduct I mean to pursue, in hope of preserving that peace and obedience to the laws, so ardently to be wished for by all loyal subjects and good citizens. I am sent hither to be the guardian of a British colony; to protect His Majesty's Governor, and all the loyal subjects in the Province of Virginia. This is my duty, and should wish it to be known that my duty and inclination go hand in hand. The same principles which have induced me not to harbour the slaves of any individual in this province will operate with me to protect the property of all loyal subjects. As I have before observed, that I shall endeavour to promote the public peace of this province, it is hardly necessary to mention that I shall not remain an idle spectator, should any violence be offered to the persons or property of any of His Majesty's subjects.

I have reason to apprehend that many Gentlemen in this province, from their connexions with Government, or their readiness to supply His Majesty's ships or servants with provisions, stores, &c. are held up as objects inimical to the liberties of America, and unjustly censured for their loyal conduct. Men under these circumstances are more particularly entitled to my protection. I have not the least doubt, from your desire and readiness upon a former occasion to preserve harmony in the town of Norfolk, but you will heartily concur with me in my endeavours to suppress all party jealousies and animosities, so highly injurious to the welfare of a country. More effectually to perform my part, I shall, the first opportunity, place his Majesty's ship under my command abreast of the town; and I must assure you, that, notwithstanding I shall feel the utmost pain and reluctance in being compelled to use violent measures to preserve the persons and properties of his Majesty's subjects, yet I most assuredly shall, if it becomes necessary, use the most coercive measures in my power to suppress all unlawful combinations and persecutions within the province of Virginia.

I am, Sir, [&c.]

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, September 2, 1775.

John Macartney.

HENRY LAURENS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY,
TO THE COMMITTEE OF BEAUFORT ¹

Gentlemen –

Charles Town 12th August 1775.

Capt Clement Lempriere arrived a few days ago at your Port in a small Vessel having on board a quantity of Gunpowder for the service of this Colony

which we are informed is landed in Beaufort. We think it expedient to lodge twenty Barrels of the said Powder in a safe Magazine or Store in or near Beaufort to be in readiness for removal if necessary to Georgia. We therefore request you to take the trouble of receiving & Storing that quantity observing that none of it is Cannon powder which is easily distinguished by marks on the Barrels, – the inclosed Letter to Capt Lempriere directs the delivery – If you shall think it necessary to keep a Guard upon the Store House your Bill on us for the charges which will be thereby incurred shall be paid.

If the Council of Safety at Savanna at any time shall send for said powder you will deliver it to their Order being first well assured of the authenticity of the application.

By order of the Council of Safety

H L

The Committee at Beaufort Port Royal by Ph[ilip] Will under Cover to D. De Saussure Esqr.

1. Laurens Collection, No. 29, Letters of the Council of Safety, SCHS.

ST. GEORGE TUCKER TO THOMAS JEFFERSON ¹

Dear Sir

Bermuda Augst: 12th: 1775

Were I certain that a Letter I addressed to you a few Weeks ago, by way of Virginia had been delivered to you, I should not have intruded on Business of greater Importance in which you may be at present engaged, a second Time. But lest any Accident should have happened thereto, I take the Liberty of enclosing you the Plan for continuing the Exports from America to foreign Markets, which I hinted at in the Letter I took the Liberty of troubling you with in Williamsburg. Doctor [Benjamin] Franklin has been addressed by my Father on this Subject, and he has enclosed a Plan for supplying this Island without Danger of infringing the continental Association. Should you think proper to communicate the enclosed to Doctor Franklin, it may possibly serve as a Foundation for some more eligible superstructure.

I am with the greatest Esteem for yourself and the most ardent Wishes in favor of that glorious Cause in which you are at present engaged, Dear Sir [&c.]
St. George Tucker

Proposal Concerning Bermuda

In order to continue the Exports from America to foreign Markets, it is proposed that all non-enumerated Goods be permitted to be imported into Bermuda from the Continent upon proper and sufficient Assurances from the Inhabitants of that Island that they will not infringe that part of the Continental Association which relates to Exports.

For this purpose the Cargoes must be discharged in Bermuda in order to obtain a certificate to cancel the Bond given at the Custom Houses in America in obedience to the restraining Bill.

In order to give a Colour to the Trade being carried on by the Inhabitants of Bermuda (since it might possibly endanger the success should it be carried on in the name of the Americans, as Hostilities have commenced between Great Britain and the Continent,) the Invoices, Bills of Lading &c. should be made out

there and executed in the Name of the Inhabitants of that Island.

Perhaps it might not be amiss to appoint Committees of Inspection, whose Business it should be to see that no Vessel should sail from any port on the Continent untill Charter Parties, or other Engagements be entered into for the landing such Commodities as should be taken on board, in Bermuda without Fraud or Covin.

A Committee should likewise be appointed in Bermuda to prevent the re-exportation of any Commodities imported from the Continent, to any place except what the Congress shall allow. And the same Precautions should there be taken as on the Continent.

For the same Reasons that the Invoices and Bills of Lading should be made out in the name of the Agents in Bermuda, the Charter parties should also be executed in the same Manner.

Mediterranean passes should be procured on the Continent as there may be some Difficulty in getting them in Bermuda.

The above is respectfully submitted to the Consideration of Thomas Jefferson Esquire of Virginia, by, His [&c.]

St. George Tucker

Bermuda Aug: 12th: 1775

1. Boyd, ed., *Jefferson Papers*, I, 239, 240.

13 Aug. (Sunday)

"A LETTER FROM GLOUCESTER, CAPE ANN, TO ISAIAH THOMAS, WORCESTER"¹

Gloucester, August 13, [1775]

On the 9th instant, the *Falcon* sloop of war, Captain [John] Lindzee hove in sight, and seemed to be in quest of two schooners from the West-Indies, bound to Salem, one of which he soon brought too; the other taking the advantage of a fair wind, put into our harbour, but Lindzee, having made a prize of the first pursued the second into the harbour, and brought the first with him. He anchored and sent two barges with fifteen men in each, armed with muskets and swivels, these were attended with a whale boat, in which were the Lieutenant and six privates; their orders were to seize the loaded schooner, and bring her under the *Falcon's* bow. The militia, and other inhabitants were alarmed at this daring attempt, and prepared for a vigorous opposition: The barge-men, under the command of the Lieutenant, boarded the schooner at the cabin windows, which provoked a smart fire from our people on the shore, by which three of the enemy were killed, and the Lieutenant wounded in the thigh, who thereupon returned to the man of war. Upon this Lindzee sent the other schooner and a small cutter he had to attend him, well armed, with orders to fire upon the damn'd rebels wherever they could see them, and that he would in the mean time cannonade the town; he immediately fired a broad side upon the thickest settlements, and stood himself, with diabolical pleasure to see what havock his cannon might make. "Now, (said he) my boys, we will aim at the damn'd presbyterian Church—Well, my brave fellows, one shot more and the house of God will fall before you." While he was thus venting his hellish rage, and setting himself as it were against heaven, the

Almighty was on our side; not a ball struck or wounded an individual person, although they went through our houses in almost every direction when filled with women and children; under God, our little party at the water-side performed wonders, for they soon made themselves masters of both the schooners, the cutter, the two barges, the boat, and every man in them, and all that pertained to them: In the action which lasted several hours, we lost but one man, two others wounded one of which is since dead, the other very slightly wounded. We took of the men of war's men thirty-five, several were wounded and one since dead; twenty-four were sent to head-quarters, the remainder being impressed from this and neighbouring towns, were permitted to return to their friends. Next day Capt. Lindzee warped off with but half his men, never a prize, boat nor tender, except a small skiff the wounded Lieutenant returned in.

1. *Massachusetts Spy*, Aug. 16, 1775.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL LOAMMI BALDWIN TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

May it please your Excellency I herewith Send two men who deserted from the *Lively Man* of War this morning about 3 oClock and was taken up by our Guard at Chelsea Beach & Conducted to me by a file of men.

We have had a small brush with the Enemy to day which began about 12 oClock and ended about 1/4 of One occasioned by 2 Bearges & 2 Sail Boats going upto the floating Battery that Lay near neck of Land Charlestown and bareing reather to near Malding Point Suppose Capt [Eleazer] Lindseys Company suspected they had Som Evel designe, or a mind to Reveng passd Injuries gave them a prety Smart fire which made them return down the River and with there Swivel guns & Small arms began a fire at our Chelsea soldiers who returnd the fire Briskly haveing been alarm'd by the first fireing at Malding one of the Sail Boats Came round near to the old Wreck up Winnessimit where we gave them the Best we had, and they soon made of down among the Shiping & the fireing Ceased we suffered no Damage by them there was a great number of Balls Struck one of the Boats & beleve wounded if not killed Some of the men, Some of our men declare they saw a number drop as if they were shot dead whin a Volley was fired from our men its certain they never appeard much in sight again nothing Extraordinary has appeard Sience. I send the Observation as Usual. I am &c.

Loammi Baldwin Lieu^t

Chelsea Augt 13th 1775

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU,
COMMANDING ¹

August 1775 Cape Codd W B N 4 Mi

Sunday 13 At 9 A M Weighed [from Boston Harbor] & came to Sail At 10
Anchored in Nantaskett Rd in 6 fm P M At 4 Weighed & Came
to Sail At 7 the Light House West 3 Leags ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

2. The *Kingsfisher* carried Admiral Samuel Graves's order for the arrest of Captain John Macartney upon the complaint of Lord Dunmore, and had as a passenger, Lieutenant Alexander Graeme who was to succeed Macartney in command of the *Mercury*.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston Aug. 13. 1775

I have sent the *Lively* in quest of the Transports under the direction of Lieutt Evans, and hope she will fall in with, and convoy them safe to Boston. I am Sir, [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Glasgow*, TYRINGHAM HOWE, COMMANDING ¹

1775 Augt [Rhode Island Harbor]

Sunday 13 Modt & Clear Wr Empd overhalling the Rigging & fitting the Ship
PM Came on board our Lieut. with the People that were with
the *Charming Peggy* ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

2. See Journal for July 25, 1775.

PAUL LOYALL, MAYOR OF NORFOLK, TO CAPTAIN JOHN MACARTNEY, R.N.,
H.M.S. *Mercury* ¹

Sir,

[Norfolk, August 13, 1775]

I just now received yours of yesterday's date, by a Mr. Swan. The summons you mention, I believe did not go from a committee of this borough. I will make the necessary inquiry, and will answer your letter tomorrow.

In the interim, I am, Sir [&c.]

Paul Loyall

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, September 2, 1775.

HENRY LAURENS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY,
TO WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON ¹

[Extract]

Charles Town 13th August 1775

Sir We have received a Letter dated the 7th Inst signed by your self & Mr [William] Tennant also yours of the 9th & have taken both under our consideration.

We are truly sensible of your Zeal & diligence in the public service & rejoice to learn that your endeavours have been so far crowned with success. Your self and your fellow Labourers in the present arduous task are intitled to the highest acknowledgements from your Country.

. . . You were probably misinformed of Capt [Moses] Kirkland's intention of coming to Charles Town – the Copy of an intercepted Letter which you will receive in a packet with this shews that he was to have attended an Election at Cuffee Town on the very date of your Letter – such a Watch is set as will not suffer him to pass unnoticed if he appears here in day light, but as we much doubt his venturing We desire you will spare no expence to secure & have him brought hither if that can be done with safety . . .

Capt [Clement] Lempriere returned 4 or 5 days ago to Beaufort with about six Tons Gun powder of the very best quality 20 Barrels of which we have ordered

to rest where it is subject to the order of the Council of safety at Savanna & the remainder we have sent for under a proper guard. We pray God to protect you. By order of &c.

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, I, 130–133.

PETER TIMOTHY, SECRETARY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY, TO
WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON¹

[Extract]

Charleston 13th August, 1775

We have not had a syllable of news from the Northward, since what Mr. [Arthur] Middleton wrote you – that man is worth his Weight in Diamonds. The Packet you left here did not sail till last monday,² & was conveyed to some distance by the *Tamar*, which returned into Rebellion Road on Thursday – the very day on which [Clement] Lampriere returned to Beaufort successful from the errand on which he was last ordered.³ . . . Yesterday Evening the Gunner of Fort Johnson (one [George] Walker) had a decent Tarring & Feathering for some insolent speech he had made: there is hardly a street through which he was not paraded nor a Tory house where they did not halt, particularly [Alexander] Innes's, [James] Simpson's, [William] Wregg's, [George] Milligan's, [Thomas] Irving's &c &c⁴ At Fen Bull's they stopt, call'd for Grog; had it; made Walker drink D-----n to Bull, threw a bag of feathers into his Balcony, & desired he would take care of it 'till his turn came; & that he would charge the Grog to the Acct of Ld North, finally the wretch was discharged at Milligan's door. The people were in such a humour that I believe there was scarce a non-subscriber who did not tremble, & Wells had his Shop close shut.⁵

The order of the General Congress respecting Armed Vessels pleased us so well that every member of the Committee took notice of it in my reading. But I wish'd for you on that occasion. I thank you for the List of Members of Congress, among which I rejoice to see your name.

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, XXVII, 128, 129.

2. The *Sandwich* packet.

3. Referring to the expedition of the sloop *Commerce* to St. Augustine for gunpowder.

4. Alexander Innes, Secretary to Lord William Campbell; James Simpson, Clerk of the Royal Council; Dr. George Milligan and Thomas Irving, members of the Royal Council. Irving also was Receiver General of the Province.

5. Arthur Middleton, writing to Drayton, described the tarring and feathering, thus: "A Mr Walker Gunner of Fort Johnson had a new suit of Cloathes yesterday without the assistance to a single Taylor . . . his crime nothing less than damning us all. – during his circumcartation he was stopped at the doors of the principal non-associators and was made to drink damnation to them, also not excepting our friend Sr Wm [Campbell] on the Bay." *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, XXVII, 125, 126.

HENRY LAURENS TO COLONEL STEPHEN BULL¹

Sir

Charles Town 13th. August 1775.

In Reviewing the transactions which by order of the Council of Safety employed me till near 1 o Clock this Morning, I discovered the omission of those Copies of Letters to which you were referred in the Letter which I had the honour of writing to you by the hand of Philip Will.

(54) August 14. 1775

N^o 12. C. Pl: 53.

Your Favours of the 8th & 11th are duly received the former I laid before the General Court of this Province but one of the Delegates having communicated to them what Mr Ward did to you of the Proceeding of the Continental Congress touching the Powder nothing was done towards the providing of specie that the Vessel might proceed to other Places in Case of a Disappointment at the first - I am of Opinion that the Collection of any considerable Sum here would be difficult in the Time proposed: and I think there is the less Necessity for it as there are few Colonies who have not some Vessel out on this Brand if will probably bring all that is at Market - Having conversed with Col. Porter & further considered the Matter: I am of Opinion it ought to be prosecuted on the single Footing of procuring what is in the Magazines. The Reason is when our Necessity is great, the Expectation of being supplied by the Inhabitants of the Island under such Hazards as they must run is slender, so that the only Chance of success is by a sudden Stroke etc etc the Difference between acquiescing or

In the House of REPRESENTATIVES, Watertown, August 10th, 1775.

INASMUCH as the Time prefixed by the Continental Congress, prohibiting all Exportation to Great-Britain, Ireland and the English West-India Islands is not yet come—yet as this Colony in Union with the Sister Colonies on this Continent are unhappily engaged in an unnatural War with the Parent State, it behoves us under such Circumstances to take all possible Precaution, that none of the Inhabitants of this Colony supply those who are seeking our Ruin with Provisions or any Materials that shall enable them to execute their cruel Designs against us:

Therefore, RESOLVED, That from and after the fifteenth Day of August Instant, no Ship or Vessel shall sail out of any Port in this Colony, on any Whaling Voyage whatever, without leave first had and obtained from the Great and General Court of this Colony, or from some Committee or Committees, or Persons they shall appoint to grant such Leave—and that it be recommended to the Hon. Board to write Letters to the several Assemblies of the other New-England Colonies, advising them to pass a similar Resolve—and likewise that this Resolve be Printed in the several News-Papers of Cambridge and Watertown, and in Hand Bills, and that Capt. Goodman and Capt. Stone, with such as the Hon. Board shall join, be a Committee for getting the same Printed and dispersed to the several Sea Ports in this Colony.

Sent up for Concurrence.

JAMES WARREN, Speaker.

August 14, 1775. In Council, Read and concurred.

And Dr. Taylor is joined.

PEREZ MORTON, Secretary, P. T.

Consented to

JAMES OTIS,
B. GREENLEAF,
W. SPOONER,
CALEB CUSHING,
J. WINTHROP,

JN. WHITCOMB,
ENOCH FREEMAN,
JED. FOSTER,
JAMES PRESCOT,
CHA. CHAUNCY,

ELIAD TAYLOR,
S. HOLTON,
JABEZ FISHER,
MOSES GILL,
BENJ. WHITE.

A true Copy,

Augst. PEREZ MORTON, Sec'y. Pro. Temp.

you will receive them under this Cover & in So Short a time after the delivery of the former Papers as to remove any apprehension of Damage to the public Service from my Error. I have the honour to be [&c.]

[Endorsed] Copies to Commissions & Colo. Bull & Commee of Beaufort.

1. Laurens Collection, SCHS.

14 Aug.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND¹

[Extract]

[Camp at Cambridge] August 14, 1775

Sir: Your Favors of the 8th and 11th Inst are duly received; the former, I laid before the General Court of this Province, but one of the Delegates communicated to them what Mr. [Samuel] Ward did to you, of the proceedings of the Continental Congress touching this Powder, nothing was done towards the providing of Specie, that the Vessel might proceed to other Places in case of a Disappointment at the first. I am of Opinion that the Collection of any considerable Sum here, would be difficult in the Time proposed and I think there is the less Necessity for it, as there are few Colonies who have not some Vessel out on this Errand, and will probably bring all that is at Market. Having conversed with Col [Elisha] Porter and farther considered the Matter, I am of Opinion, it ought to be prosecuted on the Single Footing of procuring what is in the Magazine; The Voyage is short, our Necessity is great, the Expectation of being Supplied by the Inhabitants of the Island under such Hazards as they must run is slender so that the only Chance of Success is by a sudden stroke. There is a great Difference between acquiescing in the Measure and becoming Principals, the former we have great Reason to expect the latter is doubtful, The Powder by all our Information is public Property, so that as you observe it may be settled with our own Accounts. The draughting of Men from hence would be very difficult and endanger a Discovery of the scheme; I am not clear that I have Power to send them off the Continent and to engage them as Volunteers, it would be necessary to make their Destination known; I should suppose the Captain who is to have the Direction of this Enterprize, would rather choose to have Men whom he knew and in whom he could confide, in Preference to Strangers. From what Col Porter informs me I do not see that Harris's Presence is absolutely necessary, and as his Terms would add Considerably to the Expence, after obtaining from him all the Intelligence he could give, his Attendance might be dispensed with. The Vessel lately sent out to cruise for the Powder, seems to me the properest for this Voyage, and as the Ten Days will soon be out, if no objection occurs to you she might be dispatch'd . . .

I had flattered myself, that the Vigilance of the Inhabitants on the Islands and Coasts would have disappointed the Enemy in their late Expedition after live Stock. — I hope nothing will be omitted by the several Committees and other Persons to guard against any future attempts, by removing all the Stock from these Places, where their Shipping can protect them in plundering. I do assure you Sir, that it would be rendering a most essential Service to the Public Interest,

their Distresses before were very great, and if renewed after their present supply is exhausted, must be productive of very great advantages. I am Sir, &c.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 420–422.

MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS TO NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Sir

Watertown Augst 14th 1775

This Court has received information that the Mail from Providence to Newport, which contains Letters from the post Office at Cambridge, was intercepted last week by a Man of Wars boat, in passing Conanicut ferry, and Several of the letters taken out, your Honr is Sensible that it may be of the most consequence, to have letters from these parts, fall into the hands of those who are Seeking our destruction. We therefore request of your Honor, that some order may be taken in your Government, that all Letters to or from the Post office at Cambridge may be Conveyed by Land thro' your Colony, as far as it is practicable, and that none be allowed to be Sent over the Conanicut ferry, –

In the House of Representatives August 14, 1775

The within Draught is accepted – and Sent up to the Honorable Board for Concurrence –

August 14th 1775

Sam^l Freeman Speakr Pr. temp.

In Council read & concurred

Perez Morton Secry pro temp.

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, XXXVI, 266.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Monday, August 14, 1775

The Petition from the Inhabitants of Machias, and the Account accompanying it, were read, and committed to Colonel Otis, Colonel Thompson, and Mr. Cushing.²

Ordered, That Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Story, and Captain Goodman with such as the honourable Board shall join, be a Committee to consult what measures can be taken to cut off the communication of intelligence which is said to go to the enemy by means of the Man of War at Portsmouth.

The Memorial from the Officers of the Eastern Regiment in the County of Lincoln read, and committed to Mr. Rice, Colonel Orne, and Colonel Davis, with such as the honourable Board shall join.³

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 328, from Mass. Arch.

2. Dated July 19, 1775.

3. Dated Aug. 2, 1775.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1775

Watertown, August 14.

We hear from Cape-Ann, that a Vessel bound in there from the West-Indies, being discovered off that Harbour last Tuesday, [August 8], several of the inhabitants went off in a Boat to assist in bringing her in. Soon after, about 30 armed [men], from the Man of War commanded by Capt [John] Lindzee, boarded and took Possession of the Vessel; but she running aground on the Cape,

was vigorously attacked by a Number of Men from the Town of Glocester, who soon obliged the Enemy to give up the Vessel to the proper Owners, and to surrender themselves Prisoners. The whole Number was immediately sent to Ipswich Goal, in which 26 of them were confined. The Rest (4 or 5 in Number) were discharged, it appearing that they had been cruelly forced into the Eenmy's Service. Lindzee was so enraged that he fired several Cannon Shot into the Town of Glocester, but did little Damage.

Friday last [August 11] was conducted to this town by an escorte commanded by Capt. Melcher, the officers and crew of the armed cutters *Margaretta*, *Diligent* and their tenders taken at Machias, together with that noted Friend to government, Ichabod Jones, formerly of Boston, and a stanch friend to that infernal traitor to his country, T[homas] Hutchinson. Capt. [James] Moore of the *Margaretta*, was killed in the engagement. Capt. [John] Knight, Lieut. Spry, five Midshipmen and Warrant Officers, together with 17 Privates belonging to the above vessels, we hear are order'd to the more interior parts of this colony.

We are informed that last Thursday evening [August 10] returned to Boston, after about 3 weeks cruize, twelve Transports (having on board about 1000 Ministerial butchers) under convoy of men of war.

BENJAMIN HALLOWELL TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

The letters wrote by Mr. Hallowell to Admiral [Samuel] Graves between the 3d and 20th of July last, respecting Mr. Hallowell's property and the conversation had on that subject, prior to the 11th. of august instant, being already laid before the General, he proceeds now to give a Narrative of what passed between them on that day.

When Mr. Hallowell in the street saw the Admiral and as he could not get an answer to either of his letters, wished if possible to know the reason why his property was still detained from him which was so very detrimental, in consequence of which he then desired to speak with the Admiral on that business Who withdrew from a Gentleman that was with him to the side of the street, and when together Mr. Hallowell civilly asked the Admiral whether he had not received four letters from him? and was answered in the Affirmative. Pray Sir, says Mr Hallowell had you any particular reason for not answering any of them? The Admiral replied, I did not choose it. Then Mr. Hallowell Said when one Gentleman writes to another some kind of answer is expected. He again replied that he did not choose it – then Mr. Hallowell Said Sir, you do not use me like a Gentleman and was advancing to whisper the Admiral in the ear – but was prevented by the Admiral's throwing both his fists in Mr. Hallowell's face, and before Mr. Hallowell could recover himself from the two first he received a third Stroke – Then the Admiral retir'd and drew his sword and pointed it at Mr. Hallowell, on which, and not before, Mr. Hallowell told him that he was a rascal and a scoundrel and asked him if he was not ashamed to draw his Sword on a Naked Man Who had not even a Stick in his hand, and Adding these words “for Shame, put it up,” Which, after it had been sometime presented at Mr. Hallowell, he did. Then Mr. Hallowell made up to the Admiral and asked

him what occasioned all this abuse, so unbecoming a Gentleman by Striking a Naked Man and drawing his Sword on him? The Admiral immediately on this struck Mr. Hallowell again with his fist, which he returned and several blows passed between them. Then the Admiral retired a little and drew his Sword a second time presenting it again at Mr. Hallowell who said "for Shame put up your Sword You are No Gentleman to draw on a Naked Man." On Which the Admiral again returned his Sword. Then they closed and several blows pass'd and lest the Admiral Should again draw his sword Mr. Hallowell wrested it from him and broke it, and then they were parted.

Mr. Hallowell is informed that the Admiral declares that he called him rascal and Scoundrel before any blow was struck. This Mr. Hallowell Utterly denies, nor is it at all probable considering Mr. Hallowell was totally unarmed, had his gloves on during all this transaction, and must Naturally have expected, on the use of Such language, an attack from the Admiral –

Boston 14th, August 1775.

1. Clinton Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Boston August 14th 1775.

Sir, I have the Honor to inclose you Copies of two Letters I have received, respecting the impossibility of the Transports going to Sea for want of Men, which at this time is of Infinite Consequence to His Majesty's Forces here; I have before wrote to you on this Subject, and beg to have an Answer, that I may know what I have to depend on.

My being obliged to trouble you frequently on this Subject, is owing to the Men belonging to the Transports, being impressed and suffered to enter on Board the Men of War, and no possibility of supplying their places her –

I am with great Regard and Esteem Sir &ca.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston August 14. 1775.

I am really concerned your Excellency has so much trouble with the Transports people. It is very true many of their Seamen are on board the King's Ships and it is also certain that when Seamen are bent upon leaving a ship no Consideration stops them, And that before the 19th of April had they not been taken in the Men of War, they would absolutely have deserted.

To prevent if possible any farther Complaints to Your Excellency from the Agents of Transports on this head, I will immediately order that No Transport Man shall be received on board any of the King's Ships in future, And I hope the Masters will find Means to keep them satisfied on board

If your Excellency will be pleased to relieve Twenty seven Men in the Scows with Marines that Number shall directly be ordered on board the *Empress of Russia* *Good Intent* and *Jane* Transports

So far as the safety of the King's Ships will admit of I am heartily willing to give your Excellency every assistance in My power. I have the honor to be with great respect and Regard

Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston 14 August. 1775.

I can only say in answer to that part of your Excellency's letter Augt 9. respecting the Bay of Fundy that two Armed Schooners Vizt the *St Lawrence* and *Hope* sailed from hence the 21st ulto with orders to proceed to Annapolis [Royal] and Windsor and bring with them all Vessels they may find laden or nearly ready to depart for Boston. I hope No unforeseen accident will prevent their executing that Service with dispatch and safety.

Captain [Edward] LeCras who is going in His Majs Ship *Somerset* to Halifax to refit and return again to Boston, has my Directions to send the *Tartar* immediately to Annapolis where Capt [Edward] Medows will make enquiry for and convoy to Boston every thing Coming this way. I am Sir with great respect and regard [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 14th [August, 1775]

The Agents of the Transports, under the direction of the General complaining at this time of their crew deserting to the men of War the Admiral let his Excellency know that he would give an order that no seamen from a transport should be received aboard the Kings ships in future.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 174, MassHS Transcript.

CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN, NAVY VICTUALLING AGENT FOR RHODE ISLAND TO
CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N. ¹

Sir

On His Majestys Service

It's near a month since I committed to the care of Mr Lewis two Setts of Vouchers for Sundry Provisions delivered His Majestys Ship *Rose* under your command requesting him to wait upon you for signing them – whether these vouchers have been Presented you Mr Lewis can say – I am now near 2500 Dollars in Advance for the Contract, the Weekly Demand of Fresh Beef is Increased to near Seventy Dollars which money I am obliged to pay Weekly – for the want of these Vouchers to close my Accounts – consequently unable to Draw bills. I am therefore Destitute of the Means to Raise money to pay the Demands of the Contract having exhausted what coud otherways commd was reduced to the necessity of Borrg. this day to furnish the Butcher for Procureing Fresh Beef – a Vessell for England in a few days affords me opertunity to Transmit my accts. &

draw bills to raise Money which is out of my Power to do unless I have those Vouchers to Support my Accounts – If this opportunity is omitted – it will render it Difficult for me to negotiate bills – as it is already become so – thus I have laid before you the Difficulty I labour under & must earnestly Intreat of you – in Behalf of the Contractors as well as myself you'll please to Sign the Vouchers – & cause Mr Lewis to convey them to me, that I may be enabled to pay of[f] the Demands of the Contract. I am with much respect –

Sr. [&c.]

Chris Champlin

Newport August 14th. 1775

1. Peck Mss., III, 44, RIHS.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1775

Newport, August 14.

Fifteen transports and ships of war passed by this harbour last Saturday [August 5], supposed to be bound to Boston with the sheep, oxen, &c. *taken* from Fisher's and Gardner's Island.

The same day arrived here a ship of war, called the *Glasgow*; so that we are now *protected* by two ships of 20 guns, and one of 16, which is very lucky, as a Spanish war seems so very near, we having never before had any ship stationed here, for our protection, in time of war.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Swan*, STATIONED AT RHODE ISLAND, DATED THE 14TH OF AUGUST, 1775"¹

Two Gentlemen crossing a ferry at Rhode Island in their way from Philadelphia to the Eastward, were stopped by Captain [James] Ayscough, who found several letters in their possession, which were transmitted to Admiral [Samuel] Graves; but I found an opportunity of copying two of them, and herewith send the copies to you,² that you may see the real intentions of those miscreants who have misled his Majesty's subjects in North America to commit acts of open Rebellion; and that you may be no longer deceived by the artful publication of those Tories, or give credit to their professions of wishing for Accomodation. There is undoubted proof that both these letters are from Mr. John Adams, a Lawyer at Boston, and one of the Delegates in the Continental Congress.

1. *Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle*, Sept. 18 to Sept. 20, 1775.

2. The two letters under reference, in the handwriting of John Adams, were addressed respectively to Abigail Adams and James Warren. Adams' initials appear only on the letter to his wife.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Lebanon] Monday August 14, 1775

Mr [Benjamin] Huntington of the committee appointed for that purpose respecting a small armed vessel &c., reported, that having taken pains they are not able to find any suitable for the purpose, except one belonging to one Hancox &c. of Stonington, but not to be chartered but may be bought for £200, as the lowest sum &c., her sails and rigging not fit for the service; and the question is,

whether she shall be purchased, and was largely considered; and as the General Assembly have ordered vessels to be fitted out &c., the Council supposed themselves obliged to obey the order &c, and there seems no other way, and they judge the vessel cheap, and if and when needless she may be probably sold, perhaps without loss, and the hire saved &c. – Are of opinion that said vessel or schooner called the *Britania*, be purchased for the Colony; and Benja. Huntington, Esqr Cap. Jno Deshon and Cap, Robt Niles, are appointed a committee to make said purchase at not exceeding £200 &c, and also to take care of and cause her to be rigged and fitted out with every necessary for said purpose, as soon as may be. And this Council do appoint Robert Niles of Norwich to be Captain and Commander of her. And said committee are also desired to look out and recommend proper persons for the other officers on board her and make report to the next meeting.

Voted, That Cap. Deshon be directed forthwith to put the cannon, small arms, pistols and every warlike implement now at N. London, suitable and proper for armed vessels, into proper order and condition for immediate use, and on receiving advice from Cap. [Giles] Hall, of the larger armed vessel fitting at Middletown, shall be at or near Saybrook ready to receive them, to send them to him there and deliver on board his brig. But if it shall appear there is not a sufficient quantity for both vessels, that they be properly proportioned between them.

Then the Council was dismissed or adjourned till Thursday next, [August 17] at 9 o'clock A.M.

1. Trumbull and Hoadley, eds., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 117.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO JOSEPH TRUMBULL, CAMBRIDGE ¹

Dear Sir

New London August 14th 1775

Since I wrote you last, we have Nothing new, only that the Fleet, that was in our Neighbourhood, has Sailed for Boston, with About Two Thousand Sheep Seventy horn'd Cattle & About Thirty hogs, wich they took of[f] Fisher Island & Gardners Island, I beleive the Gentlemen in the Army, Expected their would have been sum oppositi[on] made by our Militia, but when the Fleet come it was so Stationed Round fishrs Island, that it was Impossible for us to have Landed. In short we were Afraid, att Gardners Island, I think General [David] Worster might very Easily prevented thats being taken of[f] for Two of the Men of Warr left the fleet, and did not go to Gardners Island, he is now att Montaug with Four Companys, we shall have a County Meeting this day to Determine what shall be done with the Remainder of the Stock – by letters from N York I find that flower is very Scarse their, it is att 19s/ P Ct & I beleive you will find it Difficult to git it as fast as you want it – if I Send you any I Suppose you'l Allow me the greatest Price, or as much as you Can Charge – I believe I Can git a Quantity to Providence, with as much Expedition as any Person, by watching the Men of Warr, and Improving the time when they are out – I am Sir [&c.]

Nath^l Shaw Jun^r

1. Joseph Trumbull Papers, ConnHS. Trumbull was Commissary of Stores of the Continental Army.

Dear Sir

New London August 14th 1775

Since I wrote you last, we ^{have} Nothing new, only that the Fleet, that was in our Neighbourhood, has sailed for Boston, with about Two Thousand Sheep recently horn'd cattle & about Thirty hogs, with they look of Fisher Island & Gardner's Island, I believe the Gentlemen in the Army, expected their would have been some apparatus made by our Militia but when the Fleet come it was so stationed round ^{Fisher} Island, that it was impossible for us to have landed, In short we were afraid, all Gardner's

Stock — by letters from N York I find that flower is very scarce there, it is at 19/8th C^t & I believe you will find it Difficult to get it as fast as you want it — if I send you any I suppose you'll allow me the Greatest Price, or as much as you can charge — I believe I can get a Quantity to Providence, with as much Expedition as any Person, by watching the Men of War, and Improving the time when they are out —

I am Sir Your humble Serv

Nath^l Shaw Jun^r



BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL,
GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT ¹

[Extract]

Oyster Ponds, August 14, 1775

Sir, Your favour of the 10th instant, with three hundred pounds of powder, per Captain Griffin, I received; and now acquaint your Honour that last Friday morning [August 11] a large sloop of war and twelve transports sailed round Plumb Island. After they had got through the gut, I sent one hundred and twenty men in three boats, which were all the boats we then had, to said island, if possible to get off the stock, with orders to return immediately upon the first appearance of the enemy's attempting to bring away any of their shipping between the island and Oyster Pond Point, lest their retreat might be cut off, it being impossible to support them without boats. Before the last boat had got over, the sloop of war was observed to be returning, and wind and tide favouring her, our boats were obliged to put back again, the hindmost of which had several cannon fired at her, but at so great a distance they did no damage. A cutter came within fifteen or twenty rods of our last, but discovering there were armed men in the boat, stopped their pursuit. Our soldiers in the boat, and some others on the beach, then fired at them, but I fancy to little effect, as our boat was obliged to make all sail possible to keep out of the reach of the cannon from the ship of war, which was close behind them. The sloop of war then came to anchor between the point and the island and that night took from the island nine cattle, and then joined the fleet, which came to very early on Saturday morning, and I suppose have gone to Boston.

I have since taken from Plumb Island their cattle and sheep, and the inhabitants have engaged to thrash out their grain and convey it from the island as soon as possible. I shall to-morrow go to Gardiner's Island, and make such dispositions as shall appear most conducive to the common good. I expect by Thursday to be able to embark for New York.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 134. The original has not been located. See Nathaniel Shaw, Jr's comment upon Wooster's conduct, this same date.

New York Gazette, MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1775

New York, August 14.

On Tuesday last [August 8] a second Express arrived in Town from Long-Island, and informs us, that thirteen Men of War and Transports were lying at Anchor in Oyster Pond Bay, near Gardiner's Island, but had not landed any of their Men at 4 o'Clock on Monday Afternoon, when the Express came away.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] August 14th [1775]

Resolved, That the list of Medicines recommended by the Physicians of the Hospital, that may be had in this place, be approved of, and that Mr. Bass furnish them for the use of the 600 Men to be employed on board the Armed Boats, and that Mr. Bass put up said Medicines in convenient Boxes, and keep them in his possession till further orders.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 304, 305.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION ¹

[Richmond] Monday, August 14, 1775

The Convention being informed that lord Dunmore was meditating an hostile march, with an armed force, to attack the city of Williamsburg;

Resolved, That the committee for the said city, and the committees of York and James City, be desired to pay particular attention to the subject; and if lord Dunmore or any other person, shall land, or attempt to land, any armed troops in their neighbourhood, that they immediately request the assistance of the volunteer companies now in that city to repeal such troops by force; and, if need be, to call in the assistance of the volunteer companies, or militia, for effecting that purpose.

1. *Va. Conv.*, 16.

PAUL LOYALL, MAYOR OF NORFOLK, TO CAPTAIN JOHN MACARTNEY, R.N.,
H.M.S. *Mercury* ¹

Sir,

Norfolk, August 14, 1775.

Since writing you yesterday, I find upon inquiry, that the summons referred to in your letter, was sent from a number of gentlemen who are freeholders, and compose the Committee of the County of Norfolk, and are therefore entirely without the jurisdiction of the magistrates of this corporation. I can only promise, that as the place of meeting for the purpose of considering Mr. Sprowle's conduct is said to be within the limits of this Borough, I will take proper care that he shall not be molested or injured in his person by any riot or mob, if he thinks fit to attend on the committee. With respect to the treatment that Mr [John] Schaw received, I was a stranger to it till the disturbance was over; but can assure you, as soon as he put himself under the protection of a magistrate, he was secured from danger.

The conduct which you are pleased to explain to me, as Chief Magistrate of this borough, as your intention to pursue in preserving peace and obedience to the laws, in the station assigned you by his Majesty, must be commended by every good man: By that care in your department, particularly in discouraging the elopement of slaves, which of late it is notorious has frequently happened, from the countenance shown them by some enemies to this colony, as well as to the British constitution, much mischief and confusion may be prevented. Your suggestion, that gentlemen are in danger, by supplying His Majesty's Ships, &c. in this colony with provisions, I cannot account for. I am very sure the contractors for the navy in this town are under no apprehensions of danger, as they have been assured to the contrary in the most explicit manner. I hope suspicions of this nature, prejudicial to the loyalty of a number of inhabitants, who are as much attached to the just prerogative of their Sovereign as any subjects in the Empire, may not be hastily taken up and adopted without full and satisfactory proof.

I am much obliged by your favourable opinion of my readiness to concur in the suppression of all animosities: It has hitherto been, and I trust ever will be, the tenour of my conduct. I have always found the authority of the mag-

istracy sufficiently competent for the maintenance of government and good order; and while I thank you for your cheerful offers of assistance for that laudable purpose, yet I presume your intention is only to act within the line of your department. I confess I feel myself somewhat astonished at the last paragraph of your letter, which seems to me to imply a threatening that would eventually prove destructive to the persons and properties of his Majesty's subjects. A personal insult offered to an individual, by the ill-guided zeal of a number of thoughtless youth, can never justify a hint of this nature. At any rate it is to be presumed, that Gentlemen in military departments will not intermeddle in that capacity, unless particularly required by the civil authority; as I am determined, whenever I find any unlawful combinations or persecutions to prevail within the sphere of my jurisdiction, to take every legal method to suppress them. I have nothing further to add, but the strongest assurances of the earnest desire of the inhabitants of this borough to live in the most perfect harmony with the Gentlemen of the navy, and hope that no little incident may interrupt it.

Sir your [&c.]

Paul Loyall

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, Sept. 2, 1775.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO THE CAPTAINS OF HIS MAJESTY'S
SLOOPS *Lynx* AND *Pomona* ¹

(Copy)

By James Young Esqr. Vice Adml. of the Red & Commr. in Chief of His Majts. Ships and Vessels employ'd & to be employ'd at Barbadoes & the Leeward Islands & in the Seas adjacent.

In addition to the Orders you receiv'd from me (the 24th. July last, & the 8th. instant) you are hereby further required & directed to search all Vessels you may fall in with, that are bound to North America, and are strictly to examine whether they have on board any Gunpowder or other Warlike Stores & should you find any such on board, you are to seize said Vessels and bring them forthwith to me to this place, for which this shall be your Order.

Given under my hand on board the *Portland* in English Harbor Antigua 14th. Augt. 1775

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, LC Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF
THE COUNCIL AT ANTIGUA ¹

Honble Gentn. *Portland* English Harbour Antigua 14th. Augt. 1775.

Having received certain intelligence that sundry Vessels belonging to No. America go to the French, Dutch & Danish Islands in these Seas, & offer unlimited prices for Gunpowder & other Warlike Stores I think it my Duty to acquaint you therewith; as so many Vessels come in here, daily from thence, who may have the like directions to purchase it at any rate; And I also hear there is at present great quantities of Powder &c at St. Johns & am fearful the vast price offered may tempt the Proprietors to run risques & dispose of it, which must prove of the utmost

disservice to His Majesty by thus assisting the North Americans, who are now declared to be in open Rebellion. I therefore hope you will take this matter into consideration and use what method you shall think best, to prevent such illegal & dangerous practices especially as it may be in your power to find out whether there is any ground for such suspicions

The Season of the Year will not now permit any of His Majts Ships to lye in St Johns Road to search all such Vessels as are bound to America otherwise I would send one. I am &c

James Young

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, LC Transcript.

15 Aug.

MINUTES OF THE ROYAL COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA ¹

At a Council holden at Halifax on the 15th of August 1775

Present

His Excellency the Governor The Honorable Jonathan Belcher
Charles Morris, Richard Bulkeley, Henry Newton, Arthur Goold,
John Butler, James Burrows, Counsellors

The Governor laid before the Council letters received last night from Windsor from the Lieut. Governor ² [and] Mr. [Isaac] Deschamps assistant Judge of the Supreme Court, dated the 12th Instant received the 14th. at night; setting forth that by Persons lately arrived from Machias in the Bay of Fundy, there was intelligence receiv'd that the People of that Place were mediating a design of equipping two Vessels, the *Diligent* Schooner lately taken being one of them who were to proceed up the Bay of Fundy & thence into the Bason of Minas in order to come to Windsor & destroy the Vessells lying there laden with Hay & Provisions for Boston to destroy the Cattle in the Country if they could not carry them off, also that they were fitting out several small Vessels in order to Cruize & Seize on the Vessells laden with Provisions, and the Lieut. Governor signifies by his letter that he has strong reasons to believe that a great part of the Militia of the Bay of Fundy had no inclination to oppose their Country Men in case of any attempt.

And the Council having taken the foregoing Intelligence into Consideration were of Opinion that application should be made to the Officer Commanding the Navy in this Harbour that he wou'd Order His Majesty's Ship *Senegal* to proceed to the Bay of Fundy without loss of time for the purpose of protecting the Vessells laden with Provisions and Stores for the Army, & all Vessells Sailing to & from there, to give all possible aid & Protection to that part of the Province. The same to be signified to the Commanding Officer by Letter.

And the Governor Signified his intention to Order all the Recruits for the new Corps now raising in this Province to march forthwith to Windsor with seventy five rounds of ammunition each, there to be quarter'd untill further Orders & to receive directions for their Conduct from the Magistrates, to which the Council consented & Agreed.

Moved.
 Light breeze and fair at 10 past 3ight the Rebels opened two Batteries and fired on our
 lines and floating Battery at 6 saw a Party of them a board of our ship, on whom we
 fired two 6 Pounders, Guard boat employed as before.

8 Weather people variously employed, Guard boats as usual and Long boat
 Watering, and Truck's Boat & Quarterly Decovert of Provisions by the Charming Nancy
 Transport.

Tenth past 8 Weather middle squally with heavy rain latter moderate, Boat as
 above, ~~the~~ loose sails to day.



(Top) HMS Fowey log entries, August 16-18, 1775. (Bottom) Chip log and sand glasses.

Order'd that the Colonel of Militia have in readiness the Men upon whom they can most depend to March on the first notice, And that all Officers of the Militia do take the Oath to Government at the next Meeting of the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace in the County to which they belong.

1. Minutes of Council Aug. 23, 1766 to Oct. 6, 1783, N.S. Arch. Hereafter cited as Council Minutes, N.S. Arch.
2. Michael Francklin.

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO CAPTAIN EDWARD
MEDOWS, R.N., H.M.S. *Tartar*, HALIFAX ¹

Sir

Halifax 15 August 1775

Having received information last Night by letter from Windsor from the Lieut. Governor and from Mr. Deschamps, One of the Assistant Judges of the Supreme Court, that from intelligence they just then received the People of Machias were Meditating a design of equipping two Armed Vessells, the King Schooner *Diligence* lately taken being one of them, in order to proceed to the Bay of Fundy and thence into the Bason of Minas to come to Windsor and there destroy the Vessells laden with Provisions and Hay for the Army at Boston, Also to destroy the Cattle in the Country if they could not carry them off.

I therefore thought it necessary to take the Opinion and Advice of His Majesty's Council, in Order to take Measures to prevent the ill consequences which Might attend such an Attempt, and the same having been taken into Consideration – It was Resolved that application should be made to the Officer Commanding His Majestys Ships in this Harbour, that he would Order His Majestys Sloop *Senegal* to proceed to the Bay of Fundy without loss of time, there to Cruize for the purpose of protecting the Vessels laden with Stores and Provisions for the Army, and all Vessells Sailing to and from the Bay, and to give all possible Aid and protection to that Part of the Province –

And I do Sir, Accordingly communicate this Resolution to You for His Majesty's Service, and for the Safety and Protection of His loyal Subjects in those Parts. I am Sir [&c]

Frans Legge

1. Council Letterbook, 210, N.S. Arch.

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO VICE ADMIRAL
SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

Halifax Nova Scotia 15 August 1775

Enclosed are the Copies of letters from Lieutenant Governor [Michael] Francklin and Mr. [Isaac] Deschamps One of the Justices of the Supreme Court giving information of intelligence they have received respecting what is Meditating by the People of Machias against this Province. – And in Consequence thereof I did with the Advice of His Majesty's Council Apply to Captain [Edward] Meadows Commanding of the King's Ships in the Harbour, that he would order his Majesty's Ship *Senegal* into the Bay of Fundy to protect the Vessels Carrying

the Hay and Provisions for His Majesty's Forces at Boston and to Aid and protect that part of this Province.

I have the honor to be Sir [&c.]

Frans. Legge

1. Council Letterbook, 212, N.S. Arch.

New Hampshire Gazette, TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1775

Portsmouth, August 15.

Committee Hall, Portsmouth August 13, 1775. The Committee of Safety finding it inconsistent with the Peace and good Order of this Town, that any further communication should be kept up between the Ship *Scarborough* and the Town,

Therefore Voted, That henceforward no Boats pass or repass from the said Ship or the Town of New-Castle without a Permit from this Committee, or the Select-Men or Committee of New-Castle.

By order of the Committee:

H. Wentworth, Chairman.

We are credibly inform'd, that in Consequence of the above Vote, Capt. [Andrew] Barkley of the *Scarborough*, has stopped all our Shipping, outward and inward bound.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Tuesday, August 15, 1775

Report of the Committee on Capt. Jeremiah Obrian's Account. Read and recommitted for amendments.

Benjamin White, Esq; brought down the Report on the Memorial of the Officers of the Eastern Regiment in the County of Lincoln.

1. Mass. Arch.

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER ¹

[Extract]

Cambridge Camp, August 15, 1775.

I am glad to relieve you from your Anxiety, respecting Troops being sent from Boston to Quebec. These Reports, I apprehend, took their Rise from a Fleet being fitted out about fourteen Days ago to plunder the Islands in the Sound, of their live Stock; an Expedition which they have executed with some Success, and are just returning; but you may depend on it no Troops have been detached from Boston for Canada or elsewhere.

1. Mass. Arch.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU, COMMANDING ¹

August 1775

Tuesday 15

Moored with Springs on our Cables in Chas Town River at ½ past 3 P M the Rebels Opened two Batteries and fired on our lines And floating Battery at 6 saw a Party of them a breast of our ship, on whom we fired two 6 Pounders.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BENJAMIN
FRANKLIN ¹

Sir

Providence August 15th 1775

I think it my Duty [to] inform you that on Friday Morning last [August 11] as Benjamin Mumford who rides Post from Newport to New London was crossing the Ferry to Newport he was taken by Capt. [James] Wallace of the Ship *Rose* who broke open the Mails sent some of the Letters ashore and kept the Remainder in Order to send them to Boston – He detained Mumford until Yesterday.

As the Mails will always be in the Power of the Ships of War so long as the Post continues to cross the Ferries to Newport which will not only render all Intelligence precarious but may be the Means of giving such Informations as may be very prejudicial to the common Cause I take the Liberty of recommending that the Mails be brought through Narragansett directly to this Town instead of being carried to Newport; and that they be returned the same Way

Mr [Samuel] Ward informs me that he delivered to you a copy of the Act of Assembly establishing Post-Offices and Post-Riders in this Colony. In that Act Mr Nathaniel Otis was appointed Post-Master for Newport; who hath removed to Middletown in Connecticut. The General Assembly have since appointed Mr Solomon Southwick in his Room.

I am with great Truth and Regard Sir [&c.]

Nich^s Cooke

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, XXXVI, 266, 267. Franklin had been elected Postmaster General on July 26, 1775.

COLONEL GURDON SALTONSTALL TO THE KINGS COUNTY, RHODE ISLAND, COMMITTEES OF CORRESPONDENCE AND INSPECTION ¹

Gentn

New London 15th Augt 1775

We take the Liberty of inclosing you the Copy of a Letter received from his Excellency General Washington which you will find was wrote in Consequence of the late unhappy Plunder of Stock from Fishers Island in Addition to the Stock being taken from the above Island, you will probably have heard of a Quantity of Stock having been likewise plundered from Gardner's and Plumb Island. Committees from the Several Towns in this County are now convened with a Desire of falling on Some immediate Measures to have the Stock all removed from the different Islands in the Sound, and are like to succeed in having the Stock removed from Fishers Island without delay and shall, before we rise, endeavour to be as well agreed in some effectual Measures to remove all from Gardiners, Plumb and Shelter Islands; and We being all embarked in One grand important Controversy would earnestly recommend to the Several Committees in your County to loose no Time in endeavouring to have all the Stock removed from Block Island, and to take such wise Precautions relative to other Stock that you may think exposed as your Wisdom and Vigilance Shall direct. We are with great esteem

Gentn. Your most humble Servant

pr Order

G. Saltonstall, Chairman

We have the pleasure of sending this by Col [Joseph] Noyes who has been very obliging in attending this Meeting.

To the Committee of Correspondence and Inspection in the Several Towns in the County of Kings County Rhode Island

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, XXXVI, 267, 268.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Philadelphia] August 15th [1775].

Upon application of Messrs. Mead & Coy, who produced a Letter from the Purser of the *Nautilus*, for the supplying him with Soap, Candles, & Port Wine, for the use of said ship, it was allowed that they might Supply Them with the following quantity, vizt: 1 Hhd. Port Wine. 4 Cwt. Candles. 1 Cwt. Soap.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 305.

CAPTAIN JOHN MACARTNEY, R.N., TO PAUL LOYALL, MAYOR OF NORFOLK¹

His Majesty's Ship *Mercury*, Norfolk, August 15, 1775.

Sir, I was favoured with your letter of yesterday's date, and it gives me much real satisfaction to find that the inhabitants of Norfolk are so earnestly desirous of living in harmony with his Majesty's servants. You are pleased to assure me that no violence or insult shall be offered to the person of Mr. Sprowle; and upon the faith of your letter I have requested him to attend the Committee to-morrow. For some days past I have been much indisposed, but if I find myself well enough to-morrow, I mean to accompany Mr. Sprowle to the committee, and will call upon you about 11 o'clock to-morrow morning. I must beg that you will go along with us.

You, I am sure, will agree with me that the summons sent Mr. Sprowle (a copy of which I have enclosed you) must be truly alarming to all good citizens. When any set of Gentlemen assume to themselves the power of arraigning an individual for furnishing barracks for his Majesty's troops, and pretend to censure a conduct, which I must think highly laudable, it gives me but too much reason to apprehend, that the authority of the civil magistracy is not competent for the support of government and good order.

I am Sir [&c.]

John Macartney

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, Sept. 2, 1775.

ADDRESS OF GOVERNOR WILLIAM CAMPBELL TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY¹

Mr Speaker & Gentlemen of the Commons House of Assembly When I declined some time ago to comply with your request to adjourn, I too plainly foresaw the unhappy extremities to which many of the People in this Province were hast'ning; & had good grounds to apprehend I should want your advice, & assistance. — Since that time I have been a Spectator of outrages I little expected ever to have seen in this place. I will confine myself to a very few. The Officers of the Crown have been call'd on to give reasons for not signing an Association, that was contrary to every tie of Duty & Allegiance. I now see the same Officers Summon'd in the

like arbitrary, & illegal manner, to have an Oath tender'd to them equall incompatible with their Consciences, & honor. The barbarous outrage committed in the Streets of this Town on a poor, helpless, wretched, individual, with the particular circumstances of Cruelty, & Insult, I forbear to dwell on. In a word Gentlemen you well know the powers of Government are wrested out of my hands. I neither can protect, nor punish; therefore with the Advice of His Majys Council I apply to You, & desire that in this dreadful emergency You will aid me with all the assistance in Your power, in enforcing the Laws, & protecting His Majys Servants, & all other peaceable, & faithfull Subjects, in that quiet possession of their liberty, & property, which every Englishman boasts, it is his Birth Right to enjoy, or You must candidly acknowledge all Law, & Government is at an end. – Sorry I am to add that Some particular Insults offer'd to myself, makes it necessary that I should be assured of the Safety of my own Family, & that its Peace is not in any danger of being invaded.

W. Campbell

Charles Town, 15th August 1775

1. Dartmouth Mss. NCDAH

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce*
BY CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775 [Port Royal Harbor]

Aug. 15. Showery and thunder squalls. An Express from Charlestown arrived with an account of the Governor's ² sloop being in pursuit of us.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I. The *Commerce* was at anchor off Port Royal on Aug. 12, 13, and 14.

2. Governor Patrick Tonyn of East Florida.

16 Aug.

MINUTES OF THE ROYAL COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA ¹

At a Council holden at Halifax on the 16th of August 1775

Present

His Excellency The Governor The Honorable Jonathan Belcher

Charles Morris, Richard Bulkeley, Henry Newton, Arthur Goold,
John Butler, James Burrows, Counsellors

Captain [Edward] Meadows Commandr of His Majestys Ship the *Tartar*,
Captain [William] Duddingston Master & Commander of His Majestys ship
Senegal.

Captain Duddingston informed the Governor & Council that being at Penobscot lately with some Transports he saw four Sloops returning from a design against Fort' Penobscot, that he was informed they were full of Men & he supposed them to be pirates and that from several informations there was near seven hundred Men on that part of the Coast & above nine hundred Men further on towards Cascoe Bay – And then Captain Duddingston part of His Instructions

whereby he was directed to proceed to Machias Harbour there to destroy any vessells he may find, provided the Transports could proceed on their business with safety.

Captain Medows in answer to the requisition made to him of yesterday Represented that the *Senegal* might be very unequal to the Force of which might be opposed to him by Pirates in the Bay of Fundy & that the most effectual Measure to prevent any attempts by Pirates wou'd be to proceed directly to Machias with the *Tartar* Man of War, the *Senegal* & an Armed Schooner which wou'd probably be sufficient to destroy any preparations making at this time at Machias, & then produced a part of the Admiral's Instructions requiring him to do his Utmost for the Safety & security of this Province & to destroy any Pirates which might be found on this Coast, And then proposed the consideration of the Security of the Dockyards during his absence.

On which it was the Opinion of the Council that the most effectual Measure to be taken at this time for the security & defence of the Province is that His Majesty's ships in this Harbour do proceed immediately to the Bay of Fundy & there to Act in such manner as should appear most conducive to the good of his Majesty's Service –

And it was Resolved, that for the Security of the Dockyard in the Absence of the *Tartar*, One Subaltern Officer & Twenty Men of the 65th Regiment do mount Guard there this Evening & continue so to do untill further Orders.

Also that One Subaltern Officer & twenty four Men of the Militia do Mount the Town Guard this night & Continue so to do until further Orders.

At a Council holden at Halifax on the Evening of the 16th of August 1775

Present [as previously listed]

Mrs. Susannah Sheppard who had lately arrived in this Province from Machias in the Bay of Fundy & Province of the Massachusetts Bay being examined declar'd That she had come a Passenger from Philadelphia to Machias on board a Schooner which had been Charter'd by William Shey & others; & was laden with Corn, Flour & Pork, that the said Vessell was permitted to sail from Philadelphia only on the condition of coming to Machias, or some port to the Westward; to which William Shey & the Master & others were Sworn, that the Schooner got on a Rock going into Machias, on which a Person named Stephens who call'd himself a Lieutenant to one [Jeremiah] O'Brien, came on Board a Vessell well Mann'd & help'd the Schooner off & then forced her to proceed to Machias where they unloaded the Cargoe –

That she the said Susannah Sheppard was there eleven days & heard the People say that they wou'd come with two thousand men into Nova Scotia & go thro' it to discover the Whigs from the Tories & that they would take the latter with the Governor, prisoners.

Mr William Shey being call'd in & examined corroborated the foregoing declaration, And further added That the people at Machias declar'd that they only waited until the Hay & Corn in Nova Scotia were cut down & collected, & then they would come & carry it off, that O Brian was gone to Congress; from

whom on the return of O'Brien, they expected orders for that purpose, And that they proposed to Collect a force from all the Coast as far as Casco Bay.

1. Council Minutes, N.S. Arch.

RICHARD BULKELEY, SECRETARY OF THE NOVA SCOTIA COUNCIL, TO CAPTAIN
EDWARD MEDOWS, R.N., H.M.S. *Tartar* ¹

Sir

Secys Office Halifax 16th August 1775 –

The Governor and Council having taken into Consideration the information given this day by the Captain of His Majesty's Ship *Senegal* of the Armament of the Rebels in the Eastern parts of New England, and his Instructions. Also your Representation of the Inequality of the *Senegal* to answer the purposes of the requisition made to you on Yesterday and your Instructions for the suppressing of Piracy and for the Protection of this Province, were of Opinion & Resolved, that the most effectual Measures to be taken at this time for the Security and defence of this Province is, that his Majestys Ships Now in this Harbour do proceed immediately to the Bay of Fundy, there to Act in such manner as shall appear most conducive to the Good of His Majestys Service.

And having further considered the Security to be provided for the Dock Yard during the absence of His Majesty's Ship *Tartar*, I am to inform you, that one Officer and 20 Men of the 65th Regt are this Evening to relieve the marines now on duty there.

I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

Richd Bulkeley

1. Council Letter Book, 215, N.S. Arch.

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL
GRAVES ¹

Sir

Halifax, Nova Scotia 16th August 1775

Yesterday I have the honor of acquainting you of the requisition I made, that His Majesty's Ship *Senegal* might proceed to the Bay of Fundy, but on the representation of Captain [Edward] Medows & the information of Captain [William] Duddingston, of the numbers of the people on the Eastern Coasts of New England, and of four Sloops which they had equipped, and the Number of Men they had ready for any Enterprize & on the Representation of Captain Medows, that the *Senegal* would not be equal to oppose the Vessels which might be fitted out by the Rebels, it was this day taken into Consideration in Council & thereon Resolved, that the most effectual Measures to be taken for the defence and Security of this Province is that His Majestys Ships now in this Harbour should proceed immediately to the Bay of Fundy, there to Act in such manner, as shall be most conducive to the Good of His Majesty's Service.

And this Resolution being also conformable to the Instructions to the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships here, they have been accordingly communicated to them.

I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

Frans Legge

1. Council Letter Book, 216, 217, N.S. Arch.

GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

(Copy)

Halifax August 16th 1775

Sir Since my last Letter to your Excellency I have entered into an Agreement with Mr. Barton for procuring the number of Ship Carpenters & Seamen you proposed to be raised here, and I was informed by him Yesterday that he had procured Thirty Six in the whole about one half Carpenters and the other Seamen, that he could have compleated the whole number before now; but chooses to have such men as will Answer the purposes for which they are designed, & that he shall soon compleat the number & be ready for embarkation as soon as the Vessel arrives. I enclose your Excellency a Copy of my Agreement with him containing the Terms & Conditions, upon which they are to enter into the Service.

Your Letter of the 29th July last I have received & would observe to your Excellency that the Militia of this Province are not to be depended on case an Attempt should be made on this Province by the People of the Eastern Parts of New England, as most of them especially in that part of the Country are from New England, & am very Doubtful whether the greater number are not too much of the same Sentiment with the People of the Country from whence they are derived.

By Advices from Machias, it is now rendered certain Mr. Knight is taken & both his Vessels. That a Vessel has lately arrived there from Philadelphia sent by the Congress with Provisions That OBrien who commanded the Vessel fitted out to Cruize for the Provision Vessels Bound from this Province with Cattle & other Provision, is gone to the Congress at Philadelphia for orders, that another Person commands her. We are informed that along the Eastern Coast several small Vessels are fitting out for the like purpose so that Navigation between Boston & this Province will become uncertain & Dangerous That I have had these matters before His Majesty's Council & the Copy of the Letters, & their result thereupon will herewith be Transmitted to your Excellency.

I had ordered the new Recruits being about 36 Men with their Officers to march to Windsor about 40 Miles Distant from hence, where the Vessels & Stock now are waiting for Convoy. I had Advice from hence that they would be in Danger not only from the Pirates at Machias who have been into the Bason of Minos but from some evil minded People of this Province, & that this was a most necessary measure for their Protection but the Officers have refused, as your Excellency will perceive by their Letter here inclosed.

I cannot but observe to your Excellency that this kind of behaviour of his Majesty's Officers will have a tendency to render them entirely useless hitherto I have been able with the Assistance of the Civil Magistrates to preserve this People in due Obedience but from Appearances I shall not be able to continue them much longer without the Assistance of some Troops & Officers who will pay due Obedience to my Orders. And the Navy & Army will be Defeated, & disappointed of their expectations of receiving any more Supplies from this Province, which at best will be very inadequate to their wants. I am [&c.]

Francis Legge

1. Nova Scotia Papers, DAC.

Augst 1775 A M Fired two Swivells shotted at a Ship from Grenada, stopped
Wednesy 16th her for having ordnance Stores on board.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.
2. The ship *Elizabeth*, Thomas Ashburn, master, with rum, sugar and cotton, from Grenada for Piscataqua. Her cargo was bought for the use of the army in Boston, and the vessel was cleared. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

Sir: Head Quarters, Cambridge, August 16, 1775

I am informed that Captain [Jeremiah] Obrien, or some other person, has stopped the baggage of the officers taken at Machias, as a compensation for some expence incurred which the General Court did not think proper to allow him. A procedure of this kind would, in my opinion, much dishonour the American arms, and be attended with very disagreeable consequences. I trust therefore, Sir, that the General Court need only to be informed of the transaction to do what is proper; and, as the prisoners are entirely under their direction, will, before they remove them to the place of their destination, give such orders in the matter as to prevent any reasonable cause of complaint. I am, &c.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 426, 427.

[Watertown] Wednesday, August 16, 1775

The Report on the Memorial of the Officers of the Eastern Regiment in the County of Lincoln, Read and recommitted.

The Report of the Committee of the Petition of the Committee of Inspection and Correspondence for the Town of Falmouth. Read and accepted

Resolved, That the owner of the Vessel mentioned in the foregoing petition, have liberty to proceed either to Dartmouth or Swanzev, as he shall think most for his benefit; and that such procedure with said Vessel and Cargo, by orders of the owner, be not interrupted.

Sent up for concurrence.

The Report of the Committee on the Petition of the Committee of Inspection and Correspondence for the Town of Falmouth, was brought down by Mr. Gill, with some amendments.

The Report of the Committee on the Petition from the Inhabitants of Machias read, and recommitted; and

Ordered, That Captain Partridge and Colonel Bowers be added to the Committee.

Afternoon

On the Petition from Machias.

Resolved, That there be raised at Machias a Company of fifty Men, Officers included, on the same pay and for the same time as the Forces that are already raised for the defence of the Sea-Coasts, and that there be allowed by this Colony six Shillings a week per man, billeting, during their service; and the Colony to

supply said Captain Jeremiah Obrian, for the use of said Company, with fifty weight of Powder, and Ball, equivalent, he to be accountable to the Court for the same; and said Company when raised to be under the direction of the Captain as to their station. Also, Resolved, That said Jeremiah Obrian be paid out of the Treasury of this Colony the sum of one hundred Pounds, towards his account, exhibited with this Petition, he giving security for the same, with one surety, (to this Colony Treasurer,) until he brings proper vouchers to support his Account.

[Endorsed] In Council August 16, 1775: Read and concurred.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 332–334, from Mass. Arch., 206, 229.

Massachusetts Spy, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1775

Worcester, August 16.

We are informed that among the prisoners taken at Cape Ann, is one [Justin] Budd, Gunner of the *Falcon* sloop of war, who was some time ago taken at Machias with a number of others and brought to this town, and upon being released from close confinement, took an opportunity to run off with a few of our tory gentry, and got on board the *Falcon* again. It is hoped, this fellow, if retaken, will be better secured.

How is the glory of Britain departed! Her army which not long since was the terror of many nations, is now employed in cutting the throats of his Majesty's loyal subjects and Sheep Stealing! – *Felons indeed!*

PERMITS TO THOMAS SPARKS ISSUED BY G. GEFFERINA, SECRETARY TO
VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

The Bearer Thos. Sparkes is employed in procuring fresh provision & refreshment for the Admiral's family, It is desired that No body will take any thing from him & that he be allowed to Come to the Admirals Wharf.

Boston Aug. 16, 1775

G: Gefferina

Thos. Sparkes has the Admiral's leave to Carry out 10 lb Tea – 10 Gall Melasses 10 gall Rum ²

Aug 16, 1775

G: Gefferina

1. Otis Collection, CUL.

2. A captured document; see Cobb to Otis, September 7, 1775 in vol. II.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, 9 Ho. A.M., August 16th, 1775

Whereas, agreeable to a resolution of this Congress, the Mayor and magistrates of this city have been requested to procure a barge to be built for His Majesty's ship *Asia*, to replace the one lately destroyed; and this Congress being informed that the carpenters in this city decline undertaking to build the said barge; being apprehensive, by threats given out by some persons, if they should undertake to build the said barge, that the same may not only be destroyed, but that their persons or property may be injured or insulted.

Resolved, That all persons who have given such obstruction by threats, to the execution of the aforesaid order, or shall hereafter, by threats or violence

oppose the same, ought to be considered as factious, disorderly members of the community, and as guilty of a dangerous attempt to destroy the authority of this Congress, and to render them contemptible.

Resolved, That for the purpose of effectually carrying into execution the said order, and to defeat the malicious designs of such as dare to condemn or oppose the authority and orders of this House, Mr. Henry Sheaf be ordered immediately to set about building a proper barge for the said ship *Asia*, and to finish her with all possible dispatch. And that Colonel [John] Lasher be ordered to furnish a sufficient guard, who are to be relieved at the discretion of the colonel, to protect the said barge while building, and to see her safely delivered for the use of the said ship. And the magistrates as well as the other inhabitants of this city, are requested to give all necessary aid in this business; that it may be known whether a few rash and restless individuals out of doors, or the representative body of the Colony in this Congress are to direct the measures for our publick safety at this dangerous and critical juncture.

Resolved, That if any person or persons shall be found threatening or attempting to destroy the said barge, they be taken into custody by the said guard, and detained 'till the order of this Congress shall be made respecting them.

Ordered, That these resolutions be published in Holt's and Revington's newspapers, to-morrow.²

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 108, 109.

2. The resolutions appeared in the *New York Journal* and Rivington's *New York Gazetteer* on Aug. 17, 1775.

HOLT's *Virginia Gazette*, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1775

Norfolk, August 16.

Last week several slaves, the property of gentlemen in this town and neighbourhood, were discharged from on board the *Otter*, where it is now shamefully notorious, many of them for weeks past have been concealed, and their owners in some instances ill-treated for making application for them. The public, it is generally thought, is indebted for this discharge to a higher power than any on board that vessel.

The officers that lately arrived in a vessel from Boston still continue at Gosport. Two of them, as we hear, are captains, one a lieutenant, three of them ensigns and one a surgeon. Some of them expressed great surprise, when in answer to their enquiries, they were told there were no men raised here, as it seems they had been made to expect that government, as it is called, could raise troops here at will.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commence*, BY
CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER¹

1775 [Port Royal Harbor]

Aug. 16 Squally weather, with a great deal of rain. Sundry companies of militia and light infantry, came to town from the different islands, to guard the powder.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

17 Aug.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1775

Cambridge, August 17.

Last Monday morning [August 14] came to town from Ipswich, 20 of the Prisoners taken at Cape-Ann the Tuesday before.¹

1. The men from H.M.S. *Falcon*, captured in that ship's boats in Gloucester harbor.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Thursday, August 17, 1775 Afternoon

John Taylor, Esq. brought down the Report of the Committee on the Memorial of the Officers of the Eastern Regiment of Militia in the County of Lincoln, viz:

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the Memorial of the officers of the Eastern Regiment of Militia in the County of Lincoln, beg leave to report, that the conduct of said Regiment of Militia in destroying Fort Pownall, and taking a number of vessels mentioned in said Memorial, is highly approved; that the Sloops mentioned as taken in said Memorial, together with their rigging and sails, be secured in some place or places of safety by the Selectmen and Committees of Correspondence of each Town in the County of Lincoln where these vessels now are, until the further order of this Court; that the Schooner taken as mentioned in said Memorial, be and remain in the care of the petitioners, to be by them employed in defence of the sea-coasts of those eastern parts, and the annoyance of our enemies, in the most prudent and effectual manner, until the further order of this Court; that the Boat or Barge mentioned in said Memorial be under the care of Colonel James Cargill, to be by him used and employed in the Colony service, until the further order of this Court; that Messrs. Phillips and Cruger be discharged, evidence appearing, from several persons of credit now out of Boston, that they have acted a friendly part, in several instances, to the great cause of liberty, and nothing appearing against them but only the Admiral's pass, without which, it is supposed, they could not get out of Boston with their vessels; and that Jonathan Carleton, mentioned also in said Memorial, and any others in the hands of our friends in said County of Lincoln, be discharged, if the Selectmen and Committees of Correspondence in those parts may judge it fit and proper, and consistent with the publick safety, otherwise to be kept in custody till further orders.

Joseph Palmer, Chairman
Samuel Adams, Secretary

[Endorsed] In Council, August 15, 1775: Read and sent down. In the House of Representatives, August 18, 1775. Read and concurred.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 334–336, from Mass. Arch., vol. 206, 234.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N.¹

Sir,

Preston Boston 17 August 1775

I have received your Letter August 4 by Mr. Frazer, who returns in the *Spinckes* with your Provisions. I would much rather have you cruize than lie at Anchor constantly, and purpose relieving you, but the want of a Sloop to be at Newcastle has hitherto prevented it, and I am apprehensive that if the Harbour is left without a Kings Ship they will in her absence, though but for a Week, mount Cannon and hinder any Ships entering in future, which must be guarded against. I have only one more objection to your cruizing, and that is the situation of the Governor, who, by the Harbour being left without a Man of War, may consider himself exposed to the Resentment or evil design of the Rebels and to be left destitute of Protection.

If these can be obviated I will order you to cruize immediately, but I will certainly send the first Sloop I have to relieve you. Mr. Frazer has paid my share of the Freight of 1000 Dollars.

I observe what you say about Newbury; that place and all others indeed require to be strictly attended to, but where are the Ships? I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 174, 175, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE
BRITISH ADMIRALTY¹

Sir

Preston Boston 17 August 1775

In my last Letter July 29 by Col. James I acquainted you that the *Falcon* was ordered to convoy the *Russia Merchant* Transport twenty Leagues to the Eastward of Cape Cod; Captain [John] Linzee accordingly sailed the 30th with Directions to cruize between Cape Ann and the Isle of Shoals to intercept Supplies of Ammunition and Provisions coming to the Rebels.

On the 10th. instant the *Falcon* anchored at Nantasket, and I received a Letter from Captain Linzee, (a Copy of which is inclosed) giving an Account of an unsuccessful attempt to take a large Schooner in Cape Ann Harbour and to destroy the Town, and that he was obliged to come away with the Loss of two Boats, his master Gunner, Sixteen Seamen and seven Marines taken Prisoners, and his Lieutenant wounded. It is so difficult to procure British Seamen that the Loss becomes considerable. At present they cannot be replaced with Europeans and experience shews Americans are not to be trusted.

In a former Letter I mentioned the Rebels having burnt the Wooden part of Boston Light house. The Governor ordered it be repaired immediately; Materials and Artificers were accordingly sent down, and at his request I ordered Lieut. Coulthurst and a Party of Marines from the *Preston* and *Boyne* for their Guard. The *Preston's* Long Boat also staid with them, and Captain [Thomas] Bishop of the *Lively* at Nantasket had directions to give them all the assistance in his power, and to settle Signals to be made in case of danger. They had ex-

ceeded a week on this Duty and were to have been relieved on the 31st when to my great astonishment, I was informed they had been all cut off just after Day Light. The inclosed Account from the Midshipman who commanded the Long Boat will shew more particularly how this Affair happened. As the Light house Island with 30 men was judged capable of being defended against 1000, it was extremely unfortunate the Party of Marines made so little resistance, for in less than half an hour a great Reinforcement arrived: but I am sorry to say it appears to me the Party were intent only upon escaping, although the Marine Officer was at the Reduction of Belle Isle and accounted a brave and experienced Officer.

Captain [John] Robinson of the *Preston* happened the night of the 30th. to have the Boats of the Squadron endeavouring to get at and destroy some Whale Boats, secreted in a Wood near the Water Side; this Scheme failed, but he arrived time enough to chase the Whale Boats across the Lighthouse Channel to Hull Beach, from whence he brought away two of them and Lieut. Colthursts Body. Seven Artificers having got away from the Rebels, after being landed on the Main were brought off in one of the Boats, with Captain Robinson; Two more escaped in the Long Boat. But two wounded Marines out of the whole Party were not taken, one of whom is since dead of his Wounds.

The *Merlin* anchored the 2d instant in the Lighthouse Channel from a Cruize

On the 5th. his Majestys Ship *Fowey* arrived from Virginia and brought fifty two men for the Squadron, many of them very indifferent. I ordered Captain [George] Montagu to place his Ship between Charles Town and Boston, but I shall send her to Halifax as soon as I can put another in her place.

On the 6th. his Majesty's Sloop *Kingsfisher* arrived with a Vessel having on board 20 head of Cattle seized in the Sound on the restraining Act. They have been since condemned in the Admiralty Court at Boston. By Captain George Montagu I received a Letter from Lord Dunmore Governor of Virginia (a Copy of which and of my Answer is inclosed) exhibiting complaints of a very serious nature against Captain [John] Macartney of his Majesty's Ship *Mercury* and referring me to Captain Montagu for Particulars. I inclose also Captain Montagu's upon my requiring him to inform me of such Facts relative to Captain Macartneys Misconduct as had come to his knowledge. Conceiving it therefore unsafe to the Command of his Majesty's Ship any longer with Captain Macartney I ordered the *Kingsfisher* to Virginia, and have sent Lieut. [Alexander] Graeme in her with Directions to put Captain Macartney in Arrest, and to bring the *Mercury* forthwith to Boston. The *Kingsfisher* accordingly sailed from hence the 14th instant.

A Tender belonging to the *Rose* came in the 6th instant, and I received from Captain [James] Wallace a Parcel of Rebel Letters taken from two Men who came lately from Philadelphia and were going in a Boat to Providence. I transmit Copies of three of them, the rest are chiefly written on domestick & trading subjects.

The *Merlin* sailed the 8th with a Transport carrying a part of the poor of Boston, and returned again the 16th with the Transport having landed them at Marblehead.

The *Canceaux* arrived from Halifax the 9th and sailed again the 17th. with the *Spinckes* Tender laden with provisions for the *Scarborough* at Piscatagua.

On the 11th I determined to send the *Somerset* to Halifax to stop her Leaks, and accordingly have given Captain [Edward] LeCras Orders to that purpose, and respecting the Security of the Yard and Stores while he remains there, and to return as soon as possible to Boston; but not to leave Halifax unless a 20 Gun Ship at least is in the Harbour. He now waits only for a Wind to put to Sea directly.

The Governor expressing his Uneasiness for the Safety of a Number of Transports sent to Gardiners and Fishers Islands for Cattle and other live Stock, I sent Captain [Thomas] Bishop in the *Lively* to cruize for them from Cape Cod to the Isle of Shoals. He returned the 15th with the whole Convoy, which has brought the Garrison a very good supply of Cattle and Sheep.

On the 11th instant I received a Letter from Lieut. [John] Knight, late Commander of his Majesty's Schooner *Diligent*, but now a prisoner at Cambridge. I inclose a Copy of his Letter, to which I can only say that Mr Knight must have been totally unacquainted with the disposition of the people at Mechias, and the fate of the *Margeuritta*, and apprehending no danger, had put in there as usual; but as I know of no good Service that could call him to Mechias, until his release and an enquiry is made into his Conduct, no true Judgement can be formed. In the mean time the Rebels having possession of the *Diligent* not only deprives the Squadron of her assistance, but will I fear for some time hinder the publication of such of Mr Des Barres Draughts as wait only for the Soundings.

I have appointed the Honorable Mr [John] Tollemache to be Captain of the *Scorpion* by Commission dated 29th July, and Mr James Drew of the *Preston* Lieutenant in his room. This Sloop is nearly ready for Sea and I intend to send her to relieve the *Cruizer* at North Carolina, and that both the *Cruizer* and *Tamer* shall forthwith come to Boston. I am &c

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 175-183, MassHS Transcript.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Lebanon] Thursday 17th August, 1775

Voted, That an order be drawn on Pay-Table Committee for £200. in favor of Benj. Huntington Esqr. and Cap. Jno. Deshon, to pay the purchase of the schooner *Britania*, for the use of the Colony as an arm'd and intelligence vessel, which this Council had judged most for the benefit of the Colony to purchase at that price, and appointed said committee to purchase of Edward Hancox Jno. Denison 5th &c., of Stonington, and which they have done accordingly. *And orders drawn accordingly by me as clerk the next day.*

1. Trumbull and Hoadley, eds., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 120.

New York Journal, THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1775

New York, August 17.

The following is the best account we are able to collect, of the late Expedition of the Piratical Regular Traitors to the English Constitution, and the British Colonies, in plundering, Fisher's Gardner's, Plum and Block Islands, of Stock Provision, &c.

The Design of the Regulars, to plunder these islands, having been communicated to the Inhabitants and Proprietors by the Congress of New York, and other Intelligences, as early as Tuesday the 8th, there was Time to have taken off all the Stock; and some was actually taken off: But some Differences having arisen between the Proprietors and the Committees, concerning the Expence of the Business, before any Thing could be determined, the Ships of the Enemy appeared in Sight – Dispatches were immediately sent to alarm and assemble the People on the Connecticut and Long-Island Shores, who, notwithstanding the utmost haste they could then make, were too late to prevent the Execution of the Fellonious Design of the Enemy; who on Friday the 11th, approached Gardner's Island, with the following Vessels and Forces, viz. 7 Transport Ships, 2 Brigs, 2 Men of War, 1 Snow of 10 Guns, 1 Armed Schooner of 17 Men and 200 Regulars, as reported by the Sailors, landed on the Island and assisted by 10 villanous Tories from South Hold, &c. took off the following Stock, &c.

By the account of Benjamin Millar, the Overseer,

1000 Sheep

30 Hogs

13 Geese,

3 Calves,

1000 lb. Cheese

7 Tons Hay were taken off, and much Damage done to Gardens, Fences, Fowls, &c. When they went away, they left on the Table Half a Guinea and a Pistareen.

Signed by Benjamin Miller. And attested.

The following Letter was left by the Commanding Officer, and gives Reason to suspect that the Expedition (as to Gardiner's Island) was preconcerted with the Proprietor, or Manager. – The following is an exact Copy, viz.

“Sir: As we have got loaded all the Vessels, I can't come to your House, according to Promise, I send you Account of what I have got off your Island; Sheep, 823; Fat Cattle, 59; Cows, 3; Calves, 3; one of the Calves got away; The Cheese I will take Account of. – Send me some Pigs, Fowls and Potatoes, and Ducks, and some Bread; and when you come to Boston, I will secure your Interest to you if in my power. I am very sorry it is not in my Power to come to your House, but so good a Wind we can't stay; the Hay you must send an Account of by Capt. Lawrence. Sir, I am your's,

Abijah Willant

Aug. 11th, 1775, 12 o'Clock at Night."

Besides the fore mentioned Stöck from Gardiner's Island, we are informed that the same Crew of Free Booters, took from Fisher's Island 26 Fat Cattle; and about 1000 Sheep; also from Plumb Island, 14 Fat Cattle: At this last Island they had only one Prize Wood Boat and a Transport Brig. On their arrival and landing on one Side of the Island, they were fired upon by about 100 of Col. [David] Wooster's Provincials, who had landed on the other Side. But it being represented to the Commanding Officer, that the Island was nearly surrounded by a Number of the Enemy's armed Vessels who would be likely to cut off their Retreat, they fired but one Volley, which did not appear to have done any Execution, and then retired to the main Land, when the 14 Cattle were taken off.

After these Exploits, 3 more Transports appearing in Sight, on Tuesday Morning [August 8] the *Rose* and the *Swan*, Sloops of War, sailed to meet them, in order to make a Descent upon, and Plunder Block Island; the Success of which Attempt we have not yet heard.

It is the Opinion of good Judges, that only 200 Provincial Soldiers well posted on either of these Islands, would have repelled the Attack made upon it by the Regulars.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Philadelphia August 17th 1775

The Committee of Safety for this City & Province being informed on Saturday last [August 12], that a Ship from Cork had come up to Gloucester with some passengers, Officers of the Ministerial Army, and a quantity of Cloathing for that Army at Boston, immediately sent down Capt [Thomas] Bradford with thirty Men to take those officers prisoners, and at the same time an Armed Boat, to bring up the Cloathing, both which orders were accordingly executed. The Officers we have enlarged upon their written Parole, to render themselves at your Camp; and two Soldiers taken with them, being their Servants, on the Parole of Major [Christopher] French the Principal Officer, Copies of which Paroles are enclosed. The Major requested when he signed the Parole that we would for his Justification give him a Certificate of his making a Claim in behalf of himself & the others, and that his Claim was not admitted. We gratified him in this, and a Copy of our Certificate is Also enclosed. They were allowed to take with them their own Baggage, but the Baggage of some other Officers now in Boston, which he also requested, was refused, on account of the detention of the Effects of our Friends there by General [Thomas] Gage. So this Baggage with the Cloathing (an Invoice whereof is also enclosed.) which we understand is for two Regiments, is stored, to remain for the Direction and disposition of the Congress. The Officers & Soldiers are to set out for your Camp on Tuesday the 22nd inst accompanied by two Respectable Gentlemen of this City Capt [James] Willing and Capt Wharton, whom we beg leave to recommend to your notice, who will protect the Officers on the Road & forward their Journey.

No more Gunpowder is yet arrived here. On the 10th Instant we sent 2200 wt to General [Philip] Schuyler, which was all we could possibly spare, With great Esteem &c.

B Franklin, Presidt

P.S. with this you will also receive a packet directed to an officer of The Ministerial Army, which we have not open'd, but submit it to your discretion.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY
CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775 [Port Royal Harbor]

Aug. 17. Ditto [squally] weather. Our Express arrived from Charlestown, and brought with him, a detachment of artillery, in order to escort the gunpowder to Charlestown.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

GOVERNOR SIR JAMES WRIGHT TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract] Savanah in Georgia the 17th of Augt 1775

No. 57 We have received an Account here that an Armed Vessell or two, fitted out from Charles Town Proceeded to the Bar of St. Augustine and there met with a Vessell Bound to that Port, which had a great Quantity of Gun Powder and King's Stores on Board, part of which had been sent on shore but that they took out of her 15,000 weight of the Gun Powder which they had Landed Safe at Beaufort Port Royal South Carolina.

1. *Collections of the Georgia Historical Society*, III, 206–209; from PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5.

GEORGE JAMES BRUERE, GOVERNOR OF BERMUDA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

No. 22 [Bermuda] August the 17 – 1775

My Lord In the night of the 14th. Instant August, when almost a Sufficient Number of Members of Assembly to make an House were come to Town Agreeable to Adjournment, I had less Suspicion than before, that such a daring and violent Attempt would be made on the Powder Magazine. which in the dead of the night of the 14th of August was broke into on Top, just to let a man down, and the Doors most Audaciously and daringly forced open, at the great risk of their being blown up; they could not force the Powder Room Door, without getting into the inside on Top They Stole and Carried off about one Hundred Barrels of Gun powder, and as they left about ten or twelve Barrels, it may be Supposed that those Barrels left, would not bare remooving. It must have taken a Considerable number of People; and we may Suppose some Negroes, to assist as well as White Persons of consequence On Wednesday the 16 Instant (of August,) the Legislative Body, Voted one Hundred pounds Sterling Reward, to any Person or Per-

sons, that shall make any discovery, and legally convict any of the perpetrators of this Audacious peice of Villany.

And I have offered His Majesteys most gracious pardon to any One Person, that shall make any Discovery of any Person or Persons so that they be legally Convicted of this most heinous Crime, and a further Reward of thirty pounds out of my own purse, All which was immediately offered by Proclamation.

And likewise thirty Dollars, or ten pounds Currency, I have offered to be paid to any Negro, or Negroes, to inform against any other Negro or Negroes, that were aiding and assisting so that they be legally Convicted.

The next morning the 15th Instant, (of August) one Sloop Called the *Lady Catharine*, belonging by Her Register to Virginia, George Ord Master, bound to Philadelphia, was seen under Sail, but the Custom House Boat could not over take Her.

And likewise a Skooner Called the *Charles Town and Savannah Packet*, belonging to South Carolina, from South Carolina Cleared out at Bermuda the 11th of August with 2,000 Sawed Stones for Barbados John Turner Master. And was seen under Sail the same day, at such a Distance off, that the Custom House Boat could not over take either of the Vessels.

It may be supposed that neither of the vessels came near the Shore, to take in the Powder, if they did carry it away, but it is rather to be imagined that it must have been Carried out by Several Boats, as both these Vessels, Sailed from a Harbour at the West End, twenty Miles off, of the Magazine. I shall despatch these by the very first Conveyance I can get, which will be extreemly difficult as the minds of the People are very much poisoned, Since they Chose Delegates, and some People from Carolina, and Philadelphia, have Corresponded and visited these Islands.

I have the Honor to be My Lord [&c.]

George Jas Bruere

P S I hope some of His Majestys Sloops of War will arrive soon, I shall contrive all ways and means, to Convey intelligence to them, of my Dismal Situation, as I have given hints to Your Lordship before, if all the Letters have not been intercepted. Your Lordship will receive Some by the little *Porgy* Allen Kirkpatrick Master.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 37/36, 808.

THOMAS JARVIS, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF ANTIGUA, TO VICE ADMIRAL
JAMES YOUNG ¹

Sr.

St John's Council Chamber 17th Augt 1775

This Day I had the honor to lay before the Council of this His Majestys Island of Antigua your Letter of the 14th Inst dated from on board the *Portland* at English Harbour.

The Council gives full Credit to the information made to you of the No Americans offering at the Dutch, Danish & French Islands in these Seas unlimited prices for Ammunition & Warlike Stores & they do not doubt but many of the No

Americans who Trade to the Island would purchase powder &c for the Service of their Countrymen if such Stores were to be got at

The Council have no intimation of the Warlike Stores supposed to be in great quantities in the possession of private Adventurers & flatter themselves that this peice of information is without foundation; they will use their best endeavours to investigate the truth, & will with all their powers discourage a Trade dishonorable in itself & ruinous to the Community they however beg leave to inform you that they have no authority to prevent the buying & selling of Merchandize which hath been fairly imported & would advise an Application to the Commander in Chief of these Islands for a proclamation to restrain the selling of Powder & other Warlike Stores to the No American Traders I am &c

Tho^s Jarvis

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, LC Transcript.

18 Aug.

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

(Copy) Halifax August 18th 1775.

Sir I have by this Conveyance sent you the result of his Majesty's Council upon the present Circumstances of the Colony upon a Supposed intended Invasion; the Americans may project an Invasion for several purposes, to deprive the Armies from any supplies from hence, to possess themselves of the Militiary Stores here, among which are near 300 pieces of Cannon, Serviceable & unserviceable, but perhaps principally to destroy his Majesty's Naval Yard.

I am of Opinion that at present the most effectual method of securing the Military Small Stores, with the Powder, will be to put them on Board some Small Vessels to lay under the protection of the *Tartar*, till Transports can be sent & employed for that purpose, & shall accordingly put it in practice. I am also of a Opinion that some place of defence should be made by Block Houses, & Picketts for the securing the Cannon, & that the Citadel Hill would be the most proper Place for such defence which I apprehend may be done at no great expence.

That this precaution if put into Execution would not only defeat the purposes & designs of the Rebels, but upon their receiving Advice of such works being erected, it would even prevent their Attempting it.

I am Obliged at this time to desire of your Excellency that the Troops here may be exchanged for others who may be Obedient to such Orders as it will be necessary for me to give, for the defence & Protection of this Province, more especially as I have great reason to believe that the militia here is not to be Depended upon, & we have many of them inimical to the measures of Government & perhaps might be rather aiding to destroy than preserve the Stores & Magazines here.

Captain [Edward] Meadows is so apprehensive of the insecurity of the Yard that he had Signified to the Council his readiness to go into the Bay of Fundy, yet upon some more weighty Consideration is of Opinion that his Ships Stay here at present is immediately Necessary for its protection. I am [&c.]

Francis Legge

1. Nova Scotia Papers, DAC.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Friday, August 18, 1775

Caleb Cushing, Esq., brought down the Petition of Benjamin Foster and Jeremiah Obrian.

Afternoon

John Whitcomb, Esq. brought down the Petition of Josiah Jones, a Prisoner in Concord Jail, setting forth, that "having been obnoxious to the jealousy of his fellow-countrymen," he was taken prisoner at Cape Corpus, and brought to the Provincial Congress, by whom he was sent to the Jail aforesaid, and praying this Court to take his case into consideration, &c., with the following order of Council thereon, viz:

In Council, August 15, 1775

Resolved, That Samuel Adams, Thomas Cushing, Benjamin Lincoln, and Moses Gill, Esquires, with such as the honourable House shall join, be a committee to take this Petition into consideration, and report.

Ordered, That Colonel Cushing, Colonel Thompson, and Major Brooks, be a Committee to consider the Petition of Benjamin Foster and Jeremiah Obrian, and report.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, III, 338-342, from Mass. Arch.

JAMES OTIS TO NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND ¹

Sir

Watertown August 18th 1775

Involved as we are in the Calamities of an unjust and cruel War, and Numerous the difficulties, we have to Struggle with in Consequence of it, we are as yet to Acknowledge with Gratitude to the Supreme Disposer of all Events the many Signal appearances of Divine providence in our favour. In the frequent Encounters we have had with our Unnatural Enemies upon our Coasts, they have in almost every Instance been disappointed and defeated, and many of them have fallen into our hands. Yet this very circumstance has added to the Number of our difficulties. Most of the Goals in this Colony are already so Crowded with them, that they can hardly contain them all. We therefore request of your Honor that we may send some of our prisoners into your Colony, and that you will be pleased to inform us what places you think proper to assign for the reception of them. As the Cause we are engaged in, is the Common cause of the Colonies, we Cannot entertain a doubt of your ready compliance with our request.—

In the Name & behalf of the Major part of the Council, I have the Honor to be very respectfully Sir [&c.]

James Otis President

P.S. We inclose a Resolve lately passed by the General Court of this Colony, respecting the restraint of Vessells bound on Whaling voyages; which, as this

Court think is a matter of great importance, they recommend to the Consideration of your Assembly

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 268, 269.

COMMISSION OF JOB WILLIAMS TO COMMAND CUSTOMS SCHOONER *Sophia* ¹

To all people to whom these presents shall come.

We the Commissioners for managing & causing to be Levied His Majesty's Customs & other Duties in America Do hereby Depute and Impower Mr Job Williams to be Commander of the Schooner *Sophia* in the Service of His Majestys Customs to Seize Prohibited and Uncustomed Goods.

By virtue whereof He hath power to enter into any Ship Bottom Boat or other Vessel & also in the day time with a Writ of Assistance granted by his Majesty's Superior or supreme Court of Justice and taking with him a Constable, Headborough or other public Officer next inhabiting, to enter into any House, Shop, Cellar, Warehouse or other place whatsoever not only within the said Port but within any other Port or place within our Jurisdiction there to make diligent Search and in case of resistance to break open any Door, Trunk, Chest, Case, Pack, Truss or any other parcel or package whatsoever for any Goods, Wares or Merchandize prohibited to be exported out of or imported into the said Port, or whereof the Customs or other Duties have not been duly paid. And the same to seize to his Majesty's use and to put and secure the same in the Warehouse in the Port next to the Place of Seizure. In all which Premises He is to proceed in such manner as the Law directs. Hereby praying & requiring all and every His Majesty's Officers & Ministers & all others whom it may concern to be aiding & assisting to Him in all things as herewith Given under our hands and Seal at the Custom House Boston this Eighteenth day of August in the Fifteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord KING GEORGE the Third and in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy five

W^m Burch Hen Hulton Benj Hallowell

[Endorsed] Security is given in the sum of Five hundred pounds

Rich Reeve Secretary

[2d endorsement] This is to Certify that the Oath of Office has been Administered to the within named Job Williams before the Commissioners of the Customs this 18 day of August 1775

1. Winslow Papers, DAC.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU, COMMANDING ¹

August 1775 in Tarpawline Bay

Friday 18 At Day Break Saw A No of Armed Rebels Abreast the Ship fired 21 Guns to Disperse the Rebels At 4 A M Came to Sl P M Empd working into Rhode Isld Harbour At 3 Anchored wth B.Br in 16 fm

1. PRO, Admiralty, Class 51, 506.

CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN, NAVY VICTUALLING AGENT FOR RHODE ISLAND
TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N.¹

Sir

On his Majesty's Service

Having delivered His Majesty's ships under your command all the Provision I had in Store (except some Pork & Carolina Pease) and have made every attempt in my reach which appeared Practicable for Procuring farther Supplies from the Neighbouring Colonies but without Success as the agents in those colonies have not been Permitted to ship me any – nor can I purchase any in Town – all commercial Intercourse by act of Parliament being cut of[f] with our Neighbouring colonies from whence my Supplies have ever been drawn – & no expectation of a timely alteration – It is therefore for those reasons out of my Power any longer to furnish His Majestys ships under your command with Provisions – except the Pork and Pease in Store – I am very respectfully

Sr [&c.]

Chris Champlin

Newport Aug. 18th 1775

[To] Commr of His Majestys Ships of Warr at Rhode Island

1. Peck Mss., III, 46, RIHS.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Veneris, 9 HO A.M. August, 18th 1775.

The report of the committee of the city and county of New-York, of their inquiry relating to the destroying of the boat lately ordered to be built for His Majesty's ship *Asia*, was read and filed.

The said committee reports the names of a number of witnesses by them examined, and the substance of the examinations of the said witnesses whereby it appears that the said committee could not discover any of the persons who were concerned in destroying the same boat.

Ordered, That Mr. [Jacobus] VanZandt and Mr. [Isaac] Sears employ two prime sailing boats, with proper persons, to go to the eastward, to observe if they can discover any fleet steering towards the westward. That Mr. VanZandt and Mr. Sears direct the masters of such boats as they may employ, to give the speediest intelligence to this Congress of any fleet they may discover; and give them such other directions as they may think proper.

Resolved and Ordered, That the fortifications formerly ordered by the Continental Congress, and reported by a committee of this Congress, as proper to be built on the banks of Hudson's River, in the Highlands, be immediately erected.

Mr. Walton dissents.

And that Mr. Isaac Sears, Mr. John Berrien, Col. Edward Fleming, Mr. Anthony Rutgers and Mr. Christopher Millem, be commissioners to manage the erecting and finishing the said fortifications. That any three or more of them be empowered to act, manage and direct the building and finishing thereof.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 110, 111.

HIS MAJESTY'S OFFICERS FOR THE ANNAPOLIS DISTRICT TO
ROBERT EDEN, GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND ¹

Sir

Annapolis 18th. Aug 1775

In answer to the Letter Your Excellency was pleased to write to Us the 12th Instant, respecting the Ship *Totness* Capt. Warren, which was lately destroyed about Twelve Miles below this Place. We can only report to your Excellency, from hearsay, that the Vessel being bound from Liverpool to Baltimore with a Cargo of Salt and other Articles on Board, run on Shore in the Night of the 9th or 10th of last Month on a Shoal, near some Islands called the three Sisters, where She lay several Days without the Master taking any Measures to get off by lightening Her. The second or third Day after she had remained in such Situation, some Gentlemen, who had been chosen by the Inhabitants of that part of the Province to see that the Association relative to the Non-Importation of Goods from Great Britain should be strictly observed, went on Board, asked the Master some Questions about his Cargo, & Destination of his Vessel; & being assured by him that it was not his Intention to land any of his Cargo there – They did not interfere further but consented to his proceeding to Baltimore if He should think fit to do so. The ship continuing aground some Days afterwards, & no Steps being taken by the Master to get her off, many People at different times went on Board, & a Report was spread that there were many other Goods than the Master had acknowledged to the Committee, & that He was not solicitous to get his Vessel off or to proceed to any other Place. It likewise became a Subject of Conversation that this was the Third Ship which Mr Gildart of Liverpoole had sent thence, loaded to this Province, after He had been apprized of the Association, & that some Persons from Liverpool had declared he avowed a Resolution to pay no Regard to it. Such Discourses having made an Impression on a Number of young People who live in the Neighbourhood, They went on Board, and after advising the Master & Crew, to take out such things as were their own private Property set Her on Fire; but we have not yet been able to learn certainly who the Persons were that committed such Outrage, nor did the Master or any of the Crew come to, or pass thro this Place, so as to give either of Us an Opportunity of asking them any Questions. Had not the Vessel been unluckily run ashore, the Master wd probably have been ordered back from Baltimore, without landing the Cargo; but we do not think any Attempt would have been made either there or in this Place to destroy Her, unless Goods had been landed; in which Case she would not, We apprehend, have been in safety any where in this or either of the Neighbouring Provinces.

We are with real Respect Your Excellency's [&c.]

Bened^t Calvert Collr John Ridout Navl Off W^m Eddis Surveyr

1. Eden Transcripts, MdHS, from PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1775

Williamsburg, August 18.

From unquestionable authority we can assure the publick that forty tuns of Gunpowder have been lately imported into Philadelphia, six tuns and a half

of which were sent to the continental camp, and one ton to Virginia; also, that the colonies may depend upon a constant supply of that very useful commodity, at this juncture.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP, *Commerce*
BY CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775 [Port Royal harbor]

Aug. 18. Received on board of the *Success*, ninety-one barrels of powder, and got in readiness to sail. At 10 A.M. Captain Cattell arrived in town with 60 men of the Provincials, and offered to join us to protect the gunpowder, which we accepted of.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I, 337.

19 Aug.

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

Halifax August 19th 1775.

My Lord As the affairs in America are become more & more interesting, I thought it my indispensable Duty to inform your Lordship of the Critical Situation this Colony is in at present the Troops in Boston are confined to very narrow limits being now surrounded by the Rebels with an Army Consisting by the last Accounts of 19,750 men, Intrenched & Cannot be attacked without Sustaining such losses as at present would be unbearable. The last Attack at Charlestown tho' a Victory was gained it was purchased with the loss of a Thousand of the best Troops killed & wounded; & such another Victory would put it out of the Power of the Kings Troops to act but on the defensive part; their cutting off all communication with the Country leaves the Troops destitute of having any supplies but from the Province of Nova Scotia who do not abound, but a Quantity has been sent, and more ready to Sail but have been prevented from Vessels fitted out in the Eastern Coasts of New England Cruizing in the Bay. It seems the Supply of Provision for the Army from Nova Scotia has enraged the Americans throughout & they have marked us out as objects of their Resentment. I am well informed by Captain [William] Doddington of the *Senegal*, who was at Penobscott with four Transports taking in Wood for the Supply of the Troops, & from whence he was obliged to remove to this place to compleat their loading, that there were four Armed Vessels but they kept in Shoal Waters out of his reach he was informed by one of the Inhabitants that they had 700 Men Armed and prepared in that Bay, & that 900 men were Assembled at Casco Bay under Colonel [Jedediah] Prebble, and by advices since my last from Machias it appears without doubt that they are meditating an Attempt against this Province.

I cannot but observe to your Lordship, the great importance I conceive the preserving this Province will be to his Majesty's Interests in America, the only Port where Ships can be cleaned & have a Supply of Masts & other Timber; all other resource in America being entirely at an end, & where the Troops can retreat should that happen to be the case, but is at present the only place from whence they can be supplied with any kind of refreshments for which the Army at

present suffer greatly for want of the Vessels which have been loaded these three weeks & dare not depart.

Upon all these Considerations my Lord, I think it absolutely Necessary that Fortifications for the Security of the Naval Yard, the protection of the Magazine in the Town Cannon & other Military Stores shou'd be erected for I conceive that the Magazines when thus protected will be the only safe place in America for their Deposit.

I must inform your Lordship that there is not the least kind of defence about the Town, we lay open to the Country on every side, that the Batteries are dismantled the Carriages of the Guns all decayed & they lying on the Ground. I am [&c.]

Fran^s Legge

1. Nova Scotia Papers, DAC.

MARBLEHEAD COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO SALEM COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Marblehead, Augst 19th 1775

In answer to yours of the 17th instant, which we receive very kindly, as an Instance of your friendship. we are sensible of the Justness of your remark, that at this distressing time in a special manner, nothing can be of more Importance for the general good of the Country, than the Union of the whole; & that the prosperity and happiness of every Town, is dependant very much, upon the peace & good order subsisting among them; so also, the friendly Intercourse with our Neighbours, is of publick Utility. We therefore would with great Regret, Inform you, that we are Sorry, any of our Members have given you, or the publick in general, any cause of Jealousy or Complai[nt] this we are satisfied, has proceeded from an Error in Judgment, and not from any design inimical to the publick good. — Facts ever ought to be rightly stated, which we would do as far as comes to our knowledge. You are sensible that when the *Merlin* lay in Your harbour, Capt [William C.] Barneby [Burnaby] stopt several of our Boats, & confined some of our Men on board, their friends Applied to Capt [James] Mugford, as he had some acquaintance with the said Captain to assist them in geting them discharged, (it being in the Evening) he without applying to our Committee, and being Concerned for the welfare of Individuals, we think, too precipitately assisted some of the Officers, this part of his conduct we do not Approve of; but impute it as above to Error in judgment; But do affirm, that he has, by his readiness at all times, to serve the publick Interest of America, manifested himself, to be a real Friend to his Country; and we still Esteem him to be such: — The Commanders of the Troops stationed here, received no special Orders from General Washington, but since the affair above, our Committee of Correspondence have directed such watches, as they apprehend, will prevent any cause of complaint from our Friends, as to any Concern wth any Man of War that may for the future come into our Harbour. As we ever have endeavoured to promote every thing that tended to the good of America, and discountenance all that might be detrimental to the Cause in dispute, so we ever shall, And shall ever esteem your friendship as a favour

We are with Esteem & Regard Gentlemen [&c.]

Signed by Order of the Committee of Safety at Marblehead

Edward Fettyplace Chairman P.T.

W^m Williams Clerk

1. Pickering Mss., 17, 15, MassHS.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir,

Preston Boston 19 August 1775

By the Transport lately arrived with Cattle and Sheep Captain [James] Wallace informs me that Intelligence being sent to him of the Rebels taking the Stock off the Islands he weighed with the *Swan* from Rhode Island in the Afternoon of the 5th instant and then run them to Fishers Island the same night, where the Rebels had taken away fifteen head of Cattle; however the Transports got a supply there. The next day he convoyed them to Gardiners Island and having cleared the Coast of every Interruption and left the Transports in quiet possession, he returned to Rhode Island, from whence the Service does not admit of his being long absent: he acquaints me the *Glasgow* had not yet joined him.

His Majesty's Sloop *Senegal* arrived at Halifax the 4th instant with the Transports under her Convoy sent to get Fuel in Penobscot Bay. By a Letter from Captain [William] Dudingstone dated the 7th instant I find that he continued peaceably at Long Island from the 16th to the 25th of last Month, when he was informed a Colonel [James] Cargill with 7 or 8 hundred men, assisted with three large Sloops also full of men were preparing to attack the Transports and prevent their having any more Wood. The Sloops Captain Dudingstone says he saw with Flags at their Mast Heads and chased them. Capt. Dudingstone also writes that Mr Winslow, who was charged with the Business of procuring Wood, assured him the Sloops he had chased had already destroyed Penobscot Fort, and that as the Country people were disposed, it would be impossible for the Transports to complete their Lading there, or in any other part of New England, and proposed going to Halifax. Captain Dudingstone consented as the most likely method to succeed.

They accordingly proceeded to Halifax, and I find will get as much Wood as they can take on board.

I inclose a Copy of an Affidavit sent me by Governor [Francis] Legge, which I do purposely to assure you that only what relates to his Majesty's Schooner *Diligent*, and the Philadelphian Sloop, is true. It is even suspected that the Philadelphian was intended for Mechias and not for Halifax, and the Story of her being taken, like many other false Reports, is calculated to serve a particular purpose.

The ostensible Reason given by the Rebels for an Expedition to Nova Scotia is to prevent our having Supplies of fresh provisions, but there is no doubt that their principal Object is the destruction of the King's Stores at Halifax. I shall endeavour to defeat their Designs by keeping a good force on the Coast and in the Harbour, and to render the Navigation between it and Boston perfectly secure.

I inclose a Copy of a Letter from Governor Legge for your further information on this Subject.

In the King's Yard an Officer's Guard of Marines is constantly on Duty with three Watchmen at Night well equipped, beside a Patrole from eight in the Evening until four in the Morning: And every other precaution is taken to prevent Losses by Fire or Thieves. The Naval Officer acquaints me he has not been able to trace whether the last fire was occasioned through accident or design, but is inclined to think from Accident, as there has been formerly some Pilferings from the Paint Pots; and that finding he can get privately no satisfactory Information he intends to advertize and offer a large Reward for the discovery of the perpetrators.

The *Halifax* Schooner is by this time ready and sails for Boston immediately. The *Hinchinbrook* is also in great forwardness. The Store Ship is not yet arrived but much wanted.

Eighteen Sail of Transport under Convoy of the *Merlin* and *Falcon* are going for forage and Cattle to Annapolis, Windsor and Cumberland harbour in the Bay of Fundy. They will sail the beginning of next Week, and there will then remain in this Harbour the *Preston*, *Boyne*, *Lively* and *Fowey* with the Bolton Brig who will be fit for Sea in a Fortnight.

Our sole reliance for Stores and provisions is likely to be on what comes from England. I hope a further Supply is ordered and that the Transports will arrive before the end of December.

We have no Accounts from England later than the 8th June, but are every hour expecting the arrival of some of his Majesty's Ships. I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 183–186, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir,

Preston Boston August 19, 1775

I inclose a Copy of the Letter delivered to me the 16th inst by the Agent to the Contractors for supplying provisions to his Majesty's Ships at Boston, Rhode Island, Halifax and Quebec. The Contract has been some time without Beef and Peas, yesterday Rum could not be furnished, and, as the other Species of Provisions will also be very soon exhausted, our entire dependence for Supplies in future must be on Great Britain. I am in daily expectation of hearing the Contracts to the Southward are either incapable of providing for the Kings Ships, or are absolutely forbidden to do it by the Congress.

The Commissioners of the Victualling have advised me of four Victuallers being sent with Provisions for the Squadron. Three of them are arrived, vizt The *Trident*, *Richmond* and *Fortitude*; the *Friendship* is missing.

Great part of the Beef, Flower, Suet, Raisins and Brandy is already issued to the Squadron from the *Trident*. The *Fortitude* I have ordered to Halifax under Convoy of the *Somerset*. I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 186, 187, MassHS Transcript.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO FOUR BOSTON MERCHANTS ¹

Province of } Thomas Gage Esq. Governour of said Province and Lieu-
 Massachusetts Bay } tenant General & Commander in Chief of all His Majesty's
 land Forces in North America. – To Geo Erving, Danl
 Hubbard, Wm Taylor, Geo Brinley Merchts, Greeting

Whereas an open and unnatural Rebellion is now existing in & throughout the province aforesaid, as well as in many other parts of the British Colonies, in consequence whereof great multitudes of Armed Rebels & Traitors have in an open hostile manner surrounded the Town of Boston, where many of His Majesty's forces under my Command are posted, & for many weeks past cut off all Communication between the Town of Boston & the adjacent Country & by force have prevented all supplies of provisions for said Town – In Consideration whereof I do adjudge it to be necessary for promoting His Majesty's Service to purchase at an equitable price, whenever it may be in my power, such a quantity of Corn, Flour and other provisions as may be sufficient to guard against the Hostile attempts of such Rebels and Traitors. – And whereas there is now laden on board the Ship *Charming Peggy*, lying in Boston Harbour owned by Keppell & Steinmetz of Philadelphia Merchants, Two Thousand one hundred & seventy three Barrels of Flour and forty four half barrels of Flour, which said Flour for the Reason before mentioned, I find it necessary to take for his Majesty's service, and being willing and desirous to indemnify the owners, by allowing them such a price for the same as in the Judgment of indifferent and discreet men shall be thought reasonable; Trusting therefore in your faithfulness and discretion, I do hereby appoint and authorize you the before named appraisers, to appraise the true value of the said flour, you being first duly sworn before a Magistrate to act herein without favour or partiality, according to your best skill and judgment ² And you are to make return of your doings herein with myself as soon as may be

Given under my Hand and Seal at
 Boston this 19th Day of August
 Anno Dom: 1775

1. Rev. War Prize Cases, Court of Appeals, 1776–87, NA.

2. The four merchants made oath they would act without favoritism or partiality, upon Aug. 21, 1775, and a day later reported to Gage: "We the Subscribers have examined divers samples of the Flour belonging to the Cargo of the Ship *Charming Peggy* and are of opinion that the whole is worth eighteen shillings Law[ful] Mo[n]ey per hund[re]d w[eigh]t, provided the quality of the other part of the Cargo is equal to the Samples produced – rating Exchange at 15 PrCt below parr." *Ibid.* The *Charming Peggy*, Thomas Dowman, master, had sailed from Philadelphia for Lisbon about July 15, 1775, and had been taken off Cape Ann on July 25, by H.M.S. *Glasgow*, and sent into Boston.

BENJAMIN HALLOWELL TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir,

Boston 19. August 1775.

The letters which I wrote to Admiral [Samuel] Graves between the 3d & 20th July, respecting my grass on Gallop's island and the conversation had on that subject prior to the 11th instant, I have already taken leave to lay before

your Excellency and complained of that Gentleman's detaining from me my property. and being very desirous to hear from Admiral Graves himself why he persisted in such detention I did on that day ask him his reasons why he refused answering my Letters wrote to him on that business. And as various reports and representations of this Matter have been made I must beg leave to enclose to your Excellency a Narrative of what passed between the Admiral and myself on the said 11th instant.² And I can and will answer for the truth of what I have related in every particular instance the case sir, I hope will speak for itself and I flatter myself that so far as it is in your Excellency's power I shall have justice done me. I am Sir [&c.]

Benj Hallowell

1. Clinton Papers, CL.

2. See Hallowell to Gage, Aug. 12, 1775.

CAPTAIN FRANCIS HUTCHESON, ASSISTANT DEPUTY QUARTERMASTER
GENERAL, TO MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK HALDIMAND¹

Dear Sir

Boston August. 19th 1775 –

The Ship *Charming Nancy* being detained till tomorrow Morning Early, when she will Certainly Sail, gives Me the oppertunity of writing you another letter besides mine of the 11th Instt

I have now the pleasure to acquaint you that our fleet that went to look out for live Stock is returned, and have brought in with them 1900 Sheep 103 Black Cattle 110 Cord of Wood a few Piggs and some Poultry which has put us all in good Spirits, as our Sick will be well supplied for some time, and we can aford to Issue fresh Provision to the troops two days in the Week for some Weeks to come; The General has opened the Port for all Vessells that will come with Provisions or Fuel, wch we hope will encourage many to come from the Eastward, the Men of War have brought in several Ships loaded with flouer bound to Europe, which, is unloaded here, and the Owners get a Reasonable price for it in bills on the Treasury, we shall therefore be in no want of that necessary Article, and two days ago the two Ships sent wth [Colonel Richard] Prescott to Quebec returned with a large Supply of Salt beef, Pork, and Eight Hundd barrells of flouer, a Quantity of Oates and Intrenching tools which were much Wanted, Gamble has wrote Sherrieff a long letter out of which I have taken the Inclosed Paragraph, by which you may form some Judgement as to the disposition of the Canadians, but as I have Extracted this Paragraph without anybodys knowledge, I beg you will keep the intelligence therein to yr Self, or at least not let it be known from whence it comes to you, I also send you under the same Confidence Copys of Letters that pass'd a few days ago between Washington and General [Thomas] Gage.

On Tuesday night last [August 15] the Rebels threw up a Battery with 4 Ambrasurs on the hill to the right of the burying ground at Roxbury, and next Morning fired two shots from One Gun Into our lines, which we returned, but it did not seem to disconcert them much as they Continued to Work hard to Compleat it, which they have Effectuated. On Thursday Morning we discovered another Battery of 6 Ambrasers in the Orchard to the left of Roxbury Just behind where the George tavern Stood, and a line drawn aCrose the Road between the two

Batterys, it seems to be rather a defensive than Offensive Work, and our Artillery say they can soon dismount their Guns by a superior fire shou'd they begin to Cannonade. General Howe has fortified the hill at Charlestown in such a Manner as will prevent their daring to insult him, and we are daily Strengthening the lines, and Wharfs opposite to Dorchester Neck. and have Bartons Point and all that Shore well defended by incampments & breast Works We still remain in doubt what is intended from home. not a ship from thence since you left us, nor have we heard from New York as yet. We are drolly Situated totally neglected by all the rest of the World.

About ten days ago Mr [Benjamin] Hallawell the Commissioner and the Admiral had a Skuffle, opposite Mr Brantones house. It seems Mr Hallawell had wrote a letter some time ago, relative to some Hay the Admiral had taken from Mr Hallawells farm, on one of the Islands. wch letter the Admiral did not Answer being (as he the Admiral says) wrote in disrespectful stile, when Mr Hallawell met him he asked him, the reason he had not Answered his letter, the Admiral replied he did not Chuse it, as it was wrote in an Improper stile, the other said he was a Gentleman and intitled to an Answer and by God he wou'd be treated as such, the Admiral said again, he wou'd never Answer that letter upon which Hallawell came close up to him & told him he was a damed Rascall, upon which the Admiral gave him a back handed Stroke in the face, that knocked him down, and then stepped back and drew his Sword half out, but on perceiving that Hallawell was not Armed, he put it up. Hallawell then closed with him, struck the Admiral and in the Scuffle drew the Admirals Sword and snaped it in two peices, upon this Dunkin and some other people that were near rushed in, and Separated them. thus ended this bloody [Unfinished]

1. Haldimand Papers, BM.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BOSTON, AUG. 19 [1775]”¹

Since my last we have had every day more or less firing on the Charlestown side, but without much damage on either part. We have been very quiet all night, and have had little disturbance through the day, till last Friday, when the following battle royal in the streets drew all our attention, and has since engrossed all our conversation. – Mr. [Benjamin] Hallowell, a Commissioner of the Customs, had written four letters to Admiral [Samuel] Greaves. The subject of these letters was, it is said, an expostulation with the Admiral for taking forcibly, for his own use, one half of a quantity of hay, purchased by the Commission on some of the islands, for allowing the other half to pass. The Commissioner meeting the Admiral in Milk-street, who had never thought proper to answer any of his letters, stopped and enquired, why that notice had not been taken of his letters, which he, as a Gentleman, had a right to expect? To this civil question, the Admiral replied in his usual style; and while the Commissioner was whispering a challenge to him, returned a blow in the face. Though Mr. Hallowell was unarmed, the Admiral had recourse to his sword, on which the former rushed upon him, forced it from him, broke it over his knee, and then flung it in Greaves's face; after this they went

to it with their fists, but were soon parted. — The Admiral has come off with a black eye. He has not yet proposed a renewal of battle, probably preserving himself for the Yankies, who have already carried off all his fresh stock, burnt his hay on the islands, and destroyed the light-house twice under his very nose. One of his relations, who expects the first vacant ship, challenged the Commissioner, who replied, he knew no such person as the challenger, but should always defend himself whenever he should be attacked.—In his own department, the Admiral is more hated and despised, if possible, than he is by the army and the rebels. Capt. M——is waiting to accompany him to England, whenever he shall be recalled; and if the Admiral can rally his spirits, their interview will not end with a boxing match.

1. *London Chronicle*, Sept. 21 to Sept. 23, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Sabatti, 9 ho. A.M. August 19th, 1775.

Mr. John Carter lately from Boston, being requested, attended in Congress. Short notes of his information were taken by one of the Secretaries, and being read to the said John Carter, and by him acknowledged to be truly taken, were filed.

A draught of a letter to the committee of Philadelphia was read, and filed, and is in the words following, to wit :

In Provincial Congress, New-York, August 19th, 1775.

Gentlemen— We enclose you short notes of information we received of Mr. John Carter, who left Boston a few days since. Mr. Carter will speedily be in Philadelphia, and can give you more fully and particularly the information we received of him.

You will, no doubt, gentlemen, make such inquiries as to discover whether the owners of the Ship *Sally*, as well as of Mr. White's Schooner, did not ship their respective cargoes with design to supply the ministerial fleet and army at Boston, which there is but too much reason to suspect.

We are, most respectfully, gentlemen [&c.]

Ordered, That a copy of the above letter be engrossed and signed by the President, and together with a copy of the notes of the examination of Mr. John Carter, as far as relates to the Ship *Sally* and White's brig, be transmitted to the committee of the city of Philadelphia.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] August 19, 1775

Deliver'd an Order to Mr. [Robert] Towers, to Major Sam'l Mifflin, for the Powder that came this day in Capt Ferris, which is to be put into the Powder House.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 308.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA ¹

Saturday Morning, 9 o'clock, 19th August, 1775

Captain Thomas Fitch appeared before the committee, and swore on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that the cargo he had on board the schooner *Swallow*, was not intended, nor should not be landed at any Port, except in some of the West India Islands; and that he is to proceed to Hispaniola, and from thence to Jamaica. Ordered, that the certificate produced by Captain Fitch, from Humpreys and Jewkes, be filed among the committee papers.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 161.

WILLIAM CAMPBELL, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

No 5

Charles Town 19th August 1775

My Lord, My Letters No 2, 3, & 4, with a Duplicate of No 1, which was sent by the *Scorpion*, (Via Boston,) will I hope reach your Lordship in Safety. I sent them by the *Sandwich* Packet Boat which sailed from here the 6th Instant under Convoy of the *Tamar*. The Man of War saw her 17 Leagues to Sea, & returned here Wedny the 9th – We are now in such a situation I cannot attempt to send duplicates of my last letters, as I must be under the necessity of letting the Mail take its chance in a *defenceless* Packet Boat, for I cannot in our present State send the poor solitary worm eaten Sloop we have got here, out of the Harbour, as I may now expect the next packet every day, & am still in hopes of hearing from Genl [Thomas] Gage & the *Admiral* soon. –

Your Lordship will I am afraid imagine I dwell too much, & too warmly on the wretched state we are left in here, but my Zeal for the King's Service my thorough Conviction of the ill consequences that has attended the total neglect of this Province, as well as Georgia, & N. Carolina, will not suffer me to remain Silent. Since my arrival here, I have seen Georgia a Province at present, of the last consequence to the W. India Islands, warp'd from its duty by a very insignificant internal faction, aided by the people in this Province. The friends of Government here have been so sunk, so abandon'd to despair, for some time, that it is hardly possible to make them beleive the British Nation is determined to assert their just rights over the Colonies, & it is to very little purpose I mention the great force to the Northward, when it is not in my power to produce a single line from either of the Commanders in that part of America, to enable me to contradict the numberless falshoods which are every day propagated, & which does more mischief than I can express. –

This is a very disagreeable Subject for me to dwell on, but my Duty requires I should represent the true State of this Province, & of my unfortunate Vicinage of N. Carolina, & Georgia, which is equally neglected, equally abandon'd. – Your Lordship will I am sure excuse my warmth when I acquaint You, that Yesterday under colour of Law, they hanged, & burned, an unfortunate Wretch, a free Negroe of considerable property, one of the most valuable, & useful Men in his way, in the Province, on suspicion of instigating an Insurrection, for which I am convinced there was not the least ground. I could not save him My Lord! the

very reflection Horrows My Soul! I have only the comfort to think I left no means untried to preserve him. They have now dipt their hands in Blood, God Almighty knows where it will end, but I am determined to remain till the last extremity in hopes to preserve the King's Service, 'tho My familys being here, adds not a little to my distress.

Another Act of Barbarity, tho happily not of so tragical a Nature was committed a few days ago, on a poor man the Gunner of Fort Johnson, who for expressing his Loyalty was tarr'd, & feather'd 10 or 12 times, in different parts of the Town, & otherwise treated with great cruelty, Stopping him at the doors of those Crown Officers who were most obnoxious; & the Mob so grossly insulted Mr Milligen in particular who is Surgeon to the Forts, & Garrisons in this Province that he was under a necessity of taking refuge on board the King's Ship till the Packet Boat sails. I intend committing this Packet to the care of Mr Milligen who I hope will have the honor of delivering it to Your Lordship. I beg leave to introduce him as a most honourable, worthy man, who has lived many Years in this Province beloved, & respected by all ranks, till his Zeal for the King's Service in these unhappy times, made him obnoxious to the Mob. This Gentleman is perfectly acquainted with the State of the Province, & I can assure Your Lordship You may put entire confidence in his Honor & Veracity. —

I inclose with this a Letter I recd from Coll: Fletchal with my Answer: sorry am I to find myself unable to protect or assist the Kings Loyal Subjects here, it is a cruel mortification. I also send my Answer to an Address from a society of Quakers, in the back part of the Country; they consist of about 300 familys, & are warmly attached to Government. Your Lordship will likewise receive a Copy of an Oath tender'd to All those who refuse to sign the Association, my own private Secretary not excepted, & a Message I sent to the Assembly some days ago, with their answer, all which will plainly convince Your Lordship on what ticklish Ground we stand here. The Armed Vessel that was fitted out from this Port has seized a quantity of powder part of it the property of His Majy on board a Ship lying off [St.] Augustine Bar in E. Florida, & carried it to Beaufort in this Province. Last Sunday 30 of the Militia of this Town were sent to convey it here, & I am told that by one means or other, they have amass'd great quantities of warlike Stores, Ammunition particularly, which they can easily do, as there is no force by Sea, or Land to prevent them, & they allow Rice to be exported on no other terms, but paying in Arms & Ammunition. The new raised Troops which are quarter'd in the Barracks may be near 800 consisting of Vagabonds & Thieves of all Countries, & the Charles Town Militia may be pretty near the same number. The Regt of Horse was to be raised in the back Country; but I am told the levies there have been much check'd by Fletchal, Robinson, & one Cunningham, mention'd by Coll: Fletchal in his letter, who is a very active Man, & remarkably spirited. Mr Milligan will give Your Lordship a very particular account of these matters that have fallen within his knowledge, as he is Sensible & intelligent.

As the fate of the Crown Officers is not determined by the Comme if Mr Innis is forced from me, Which I will endeavour by all means to prevent, he has offer'd at any risk, to endeavor an escape into the back Country, join Coll

Fletchal, in concert with Mr Cameron the Dept Superintendant, but I will not now think of that Scheme. I have the Honor to be &c.

William Campbell

N.B. I shall encourage the Kings faithful Subjects as much as is in my power. I can do no more. Some expence may be incurr'd by my Orders to Coll. Fletchal, I have no power to do it, but I cannot hesitate at such a juncture.

1. Dartmouth Mss., WSL.

COLONEL STEPHEN BULL TO HENRY LAURENS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH
CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Beaufort 19th of August 1775

Sir Yesterday I did myself the honor of writing to the President of the Council of Safety by Captain [Clement] Lempriere who commanded the Schooner which has the Gun Powder on board, and in that Letter I would have been more full, had not the Wind and tide suited for Captain Lempriere to sail immediately; but soon after they got under Sail a thunder Squall came up the River by which means the tide was lost; which has given me an opportunity of writing again by Captain Lempriere, in my last I mentiond that I should keep a sufficient number of men in this Town, untill the Powder was safely out of this River, which would have been in a few hours, had not the Squall happend; as soon as the Vessels were under Sail I discharged a detachment from two Companies of Prince William Parish, where there are the fewest Whites in proportion to the Domestics, with orders to proceed to their own homes or districts; but as soon as I found that Captain Lempriere had lost the tide and could not proceed, I detain'd a number of other Men so as to have one hundred & Sixty of my Regiment, which added to the detachment of Provincials under Captain Cattles [either Benjamin or William Cattell] command, with the detachment of Grenadiers and Artillery from Charles Town amounting in all to two Hundred and fifty, a force which I thought would be sufficient for the intended Service – these Men I shall detain untill the Vessell with the Powder is out of this River, which I expect will be by one O'Clock, when I will discharge the Men until farther Orders –

In your favor of the 3rd Instt, you are pleased to say, that the Report of My being censured by the Council of Safety, was groundless – give me leave to say, I do think 'twas sufficient to make any man of feeling uneasy, and I was not singular in my opinion, as people here in general think me ill used, which I make no doubt proceeded from misrepresentation, and although I would not condescend to tax Captain [John] Joyner, (the Person who was suspected) before I had related to you the manner of the Powder being left here, and requesting the favo[ur] of you to acquaint me, who the ungenerous Person was that presumed to make so free with my Conduct, but as Captain Joyner has declared to one of my Officers who spoke to him on the Subject that he was innocent of the matter – gives me occasion once more to repeat my requisition, and I shall take it as a singular favor if you will let me know as much as you conveniently can, being

fully convinced I have been unfairly dealt with in some representation, if not with regard to the Powder, or I flatter myself the Council of Safety would not have encouraged Joyner or [Tunes] Teabout [Tibout] to raise an Artillery Company on this Island which must be taken from the Militia, and their view or expectation is to have that Company under their Command entirely exclusive of me –

As the Council of Safety is so far distant from this County, cannot know its circumstances and Scituation so well as I do, imagine they would not take a Step of that Sort without knowing my opinion as they must be fully convinced that I am actuated by no other motive than the good of my Country, and hope they will not be misled by two Men who are of no influence or consequence in this County or even in this Town where they are best known this is not only my opinion but that of the princ[ipal] Gentlemen of this place to who I have communicated my Sentiments on the Subject of an Artillery Company –

As a proof of Mr Joyners influence and Conduct on the expedition he was sent to take the Powder from [Richard] Maitland, you may form some Idea, when I tell you that some days after my return from Charles Town I accidentall[y] fell in here, where I heard that a Canoe had come up from the Camp at Bloody point bringing an Account that Joyner, had but fifteen Men, six of which were the provincial Recruits left at the Camp by Captain [John] Barnwell, and I judging it expedient did send Captain John Bull with upwards of twenty Volunteers, who staid with Joyner and assisted in taking the Powder, and had he applied as he should have done to me I Could with the same ease have sent him two Hundred Men or more if necessary.

I do not mean to claim any merit in my part or depreciate Mr Joyner in your esteem but to shew you that he is a Man of no influence, and that a command of the sort he expects, will be takeing him entirely out of his Element – In his own Sphere I would give him the preference of a Command to any Man in this County –

You may perhaps be a little surprised to find 400 lb of Powder being again left here, which was mentioned to me, tho' I approved of the Scheme, knowing the necessities of the People, to avoid *Censure*, I declined haveing anything to do with it – I have the honor to be [&c.]

Stepⁿ Bull

1. Laurens Collection, SCHS.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP, *Commerce*
BY CAPTAIN JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775

[Port Royal Sound]

Aug. 19. Got all in readiness to sail, and at meridian we weighed anchor, and sailed through Port Royal Creek; and run down as low as Morgan's Island, where we came to, with our small squadron, consisting of nine sail, and rode all night.

1. "Hatter's Report", Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

GEORGE JAMES BRUERE, GOVERNOR OF BERMUDA, TO ANY BRITISH
NAVAL CAPTAIN ¹

(Copy)

Bermuda 19: Augt. [1775]

Sir I purpose to send this Letter by a Boat to look out for the first conveyance, she can meet with by a Vessel passing by off this land, and particularly of any of His Majts Ships of War, bound either to the West Indies or to Europe.

To inform any Captain of His Majts Ships of War that the Powder Magazine at Bermuda was broke into on top and the doors violently and daringly forced open, at the great risk of their being blown up in the attempt of that most wicked and villainous Scheme, And one hundred Barrels of Gunpowder stole out, the remaining part of it, is imagined that they supposed would not bear removing this Villany was perpetrated in the night of the 14th. of August. And supposed to be carried off either to Philadelphia or South Carolina, I write this account that this wicked and daring Crime, may be known to the Officers of Government in England, lest my letters should miscarry. And to desire some immediate Assistance from some of His Majts. Sloops of War to prevent any further attempts to the prejudice of His Majts. Service &ca. and to beg of any of the Captains of Men of War to call at Bermuda to learn further Intelligence, I am Sir [&c.]

George Ja: Bruere

Ps. having not been able to meet with an opportunity of Conveyance for this Letter as yet, I am further to acquaint you that a prisoner committed for stealing Goods and breaking a shop broke out of a New Goal last night being Tuesday the 22d. of August, He was well secured with Irons and the Provost Marshal tells me that he must have had assistance.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, 350, LC Transcript. Enclosed in Samuel Graves' letter of Oct. 9, 1775, to Philip Stephens; a deleted copy is in James Young's letter of Oct. 23, 1775, to Stephens.

20 Aug. (Sunday)

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER ¹

[Extract]

Head Quarters, Cambridge, August 20, 1775

The Design of this Express is to communicate to you a Plan of an Expedition, which has engaged my Thoughts for several Days. It is to penetrate into Canada by Way of Kennebeck River, and so to Quebeck by a Rout ninety miles below Montreal. I can very well spare a Detachment for this Purpose of one Thousand or twelve Hundred Men, and the Land Carriage by the Rout proposed is too inconsiderable to make an objection. . . .

If you mean to proceed, acquaint me as particularly as you can with the Time and Force, what late Accounts you have had from Canada, and your Opinion as to the Sentiments of the Inhabitants, as well as those of the Indians upon a Penetration into their Country; what Number of Troops are at Quebeck, and whether any Men of War with all other Circumstances which may be material in the Consideration of a Step of such Importance.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 436-439.



Lord George Germain. By John Jacobé after George Romney, 1780.

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN BURGOTNE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

[Extract]

Boston August 20 1775

It may perhaps be asked in England – what [is] the Admiral [Samuel Graves] doing? I wish I was able to answer that question satisfactorily. But I can only say what he is *not* doing.

That He is not supplying the troops with sheep & oxen the dinners of the best of us bear [me]ager testimony – the want of broth in the Hospitals bears a more melancholy one.

He is *not* defending his own flocks & herds, for the enemy has repeatedly and in the most insulting manner, plundered his own appropriated islands.

He is *not* defending the other islands in the harbour; for the enemy landed in force, burned the lighthouse at noon day, & killed & took a party of marines almost under the guns of two or three men of war.

He is *not* employing his ships to keep up communication & intelligence with the servants & friends of Government at different parts of the Continent, for I do not beleive Genl [Thomas] Gage has received a letter from any correspondent out of Boston these six weeks.

He is surely intent upon greater objects you will think – supporting in material points the dignity & terror of the British flag – & where a number of boats have been built for the rebels, privateers fitted out, prices carried in, the King's armed vessels sunk, the crews made prisoners, the officers killed – He is doubtless enforcing instant restitution & reparation by the voice of his Cannon, and laying the towns in ashes which refuse his terms – Alass! He is *not* – The British thunder [is] diverted or controlled by pitiful attentions & quaker-like scruples; & under such influence Insult [and] Impunity, like Righteousness & peace, have kissed each other.

I should have hesitated in giving an account that may appear invidious, had not the facts been too notorious to expose me to that censure, & my feelings in this great cause too sensible to observe them without some impatience.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

Boston August 20th 1775

(No 36)

My Lord, Two Gentlemen crossing a Ferry at Rhode Island in their way from Philadelphia to those parts of the Country were stopped by Captain [James] Ayscough of His Majesty's Ship *Swan*, who found several Letters in their Possession, and some of them of Consequence. They are all transmitted to Admiral [Samuel] Graves who has kept the Originals, and has only give me Copys of three of them which I inclose your Lordship. Two of them appear to have been written by Mr John Adams a Lawyer and a Delegate from this Province to the Continental Congress; one directed to his Wife Signed with the Initials of his Name J: A: The other in the same hand writing but Anonimous, directed to

Mr James Warren lately chosen Speaker of the Newfangled Assembly they have chosen to rule this Province, in place of a Provincial Congress. The Third Letter to Mr Washington is from a Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, who I understand is a Delegate from Virginia.

A Fleet of Transport who had been out in Search of Live Stock is just returned with about Eighteen hundred Sheep and above one hundred head of Oxen, which will be some Relief to the Troops in general, and of great Benefit to the Hospitals.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/92.

BENJAMIN HALLOWELL TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston 20th August 1775

I must beg your Excellency's pardon for omitting to mention in my Narrative that I had received two different challenges from Mr. Thomas Graves, Nephew to Admiral [Samuel] Graves, soon after the Affair which happen'd between me and the Admiral on the 11th. instant.

As these Messages were expressly said to have been in consequence of what happen'd between the Admiral and me on that day, I conceive it to be a Material circumstance for your Excellency's information and I trust from your Excellency's known Candor and justice that you will be pleased to make such representation to His Majesty's Ministers as you think I am intitled to deserve.

I am [&c.]

Benj. Hallowell

1. Clinton Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Glasgow*, TYRINGHAM HOWE, COMMANDING ¹

1775 Augt. Sailing up the River for Providence

Sunday 20 Modt & hazey Saw the Privateers turning down Providence River at 11 A M weigh'd & made Sail in Company the *Rose & Swan* Sloop. —

at 6 P M bore away for Bristol ferry & anchor'd off the Island Prudence

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

WILLIAM REYNOLDS TO JOHN NORTON & SONS ¹

Gentlemen

Virga August 20th 1775

In my last I wrote for Insurance on 7 hhds Tobo in the *London* since which I have put 7 hhds more on board, therefore I must desire you will Insure 14 hhds in that Ship at £12 P hhd Capt Robertson expects to sail in 3 or 4 days. I am [&c.]

1. William Reynolds Letter Book, LC.

CAPTAIN SAMUEL LESLIE TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

On board the *Betsy* Sloop Off Gosport Virginia 20th Augt 1775

Sir I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I arrived here the 31st of July with a Detachment under my command of the 14th Regiment consisting of two Lieutenants, three Serjeants, three Corporals, one Drummer, & Sixty private men of which I should have acquainted you immediately upon our arrival if there had been an opportunity. We have been hitherto divided on board two Men of war a Ship that Lord Dunmore has fitted up for himself, and a small sloop; but his Lordship says he will do better for us and have us more together as soon as it is in his power.

I have been honoured with your Excellency's letter of the 27th of July desiring me to send to St Augustine for provisions for my Detachment provided I should find it difficult to procure them here, in answer to which I have the pleasure to inform you that we have hitherto been very well supplied (even with fresh beef) and Lord Dunmore does not think that our supplies will be discontinued.

I do myself the honour to enclose you a return of the present state of the Detachment.

We daily expect Capt Blackett's Company from [New] Providence, and Lord Dunmore says he will send to St Augustine for the remainder of the Regiment there as soon as he can procure Vessels for that purpose.

We are at present rather distressed for want of bedding as his Lordship has not as yet been able to obtain any for us. – I brought only forty blankets with me from St Augustine –

As there was a great scarcity of Ammunition there when I left it I could not procure more than nine rounds for my Detachment, therefore whenever I may have occasion for any I shall be obliged to apply to the men of war for it unless your Excellency will be so good as to give directions for my being supplied otherwise.

I have the honour to be Sir, [&c.]

Sam^l Leslie Capt 14th Regt Infantry

1. Gage Papers, CL.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775 [Edisto River]

Aug. 20 At 6 A.M. we got under way, and sailed down towards Otter Island, and fell down to South Edisto inlet, to wait the flood. At 11 A.M. we weighed and towed up toward's Fenwick's Bluff; when we came to, to wait the tide, and water the vessel, in company with the different detachments. At midnight got under way again, and towed up.

1. "Hatter's Report", Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHARLESTOWN, SOUTH-CAROLINA, DATED
[SUNDAY] AUGUST 20, 1775.”¹

About a week ago a small sloop from this town boarded a snow from England, in [St.] Augustine Bay, and carried off between twelve and fourteen thousand pounds of powder, mostly belonging to the King. She had been sent privately with thirty resolute men, well armed, by our Committee, in order to intercept the vessel on the coast, but was disappointed, being rather too late, for there were forty thousand pounds landed, with four brass field pieces, the day before our sloop boarded her. There were twelve soldiers sent from Augustine to assist and defend the snow, to whom our people gave ten guineas for helping them out with the powder, and being so modest as not to resist. A man of war was in sight, but fortunately aground the few hours our people stayed. We spiked up the snow's guns, and then went off triumphant, although attacked by three boats full of armed men. One got within a hundred and fifty yards, it being quite calm, but that moment a fresh gale sprang up. Our people brought their booty safe to Beaufort, a town on the coast, about seventy miles S.W. of this place. It was reported they were pursued by the armed vessels from Augustine; to which place, on hearing of this, our Council of Safety despatched fifteen artillery men and fifteen grenadiers, by water, and a company of our provincials to Beaufort, to assist the country people in the defence of the acquisition.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, Aug. 31, 1775.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS, LONDON¹

[Extract]
p *Eagle* Packet

[Charleston] 20th August 1775

from the bad opinion everybody entertains of a Vessel called the *Wilhelmina* I am induced to trouble you with duplicate of a Letter which I wrote the 30th Ultio & delivered to the care of her Capt. Williams . . . Since that date a bold enterprize has been carried into Execution by Some of the Friends of America & about Seven Tons of Gunn powder acquired² while people were flushed with Success, a Report prevailed that an Armed Vessel having 120 Soldiers on board was arrived within a few Miles of the Spot where the powder was lodged – I wont attempt to describe the effect which it produced – but I am convinced that a false alarm now & then, would do no harm – . . .

I informed you Some time ago that one Company of our Regiment of Rangers had disbanded themselves, that was Capt. M[oses] Kirkland's who was himself at the bottom of the plot & we have made Such discoveries as will probably bring him to Death if he can be Seized –

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–75, SCHS.

2. Seized off St. Augustine bar.

GEORGE JAMES BRUERE, GOVERNOR OF BERMUDA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

My Lord

Bermuda August the 20th 1775

If this letter should be handed to Your Lordship, by the Revd Mr Lyttleton, I am certain, the Service it may be to His Majesty will Sufficiently Recommend Him, to His Majestys favor and Protection, together with what I have wrote in a former letter; and the Accounts and Description that He can give Himself, of the miserable Situation I am in, without any Assistance.

We have some fine Ordnance here, and other Stores, and good Sailing Sloops, and Brigantines which perhaps they may now imploy, some of them, against His Majestys Cause, for they refused to Charter any of their Vessels to me, to go to Boston to enquire after the fate of my two Sons, very promising Youths.

Our People here frequently persue a Schandalous and Villanous Enterprise, by going to the Cacoses in Search of Wreck Goods: a disgrace to the English flag, to be made a Trade or practice of, and should be altogether forbid or discountenanced by a small Sloop of War, going there and ordering them to desist and return home.

And likewise they should be prevented if possible, from going to St. Eustatious, Sena Cruze, Curacaoe, St. Thomas &c. and their Trade Confined to one Port here, if pratically to the Custom House and Port of St. George.

And one Company of Soldiers quartered at the West End, and one at the East End, in the Castle and Forts to have a proper Care of the fortifications in the Town, and Castle Harbours, and the two Companys might be formed principa[lly] from Chelsea Hospital, and the out Pensioners, and this Moderate Climate, might give longevity to some of the old Men, who need not march about here. It may also be a Convenient place this winter, to recover the Sick and wounded of the Army, and here is a good Harbour for Frigats or Men of War, into Castle Harbour, for Ships drawing twenty feet water or more. Sir Richard Bickerton was the Last Frigat of War that was in Castle Harbour to whom I refer Your Lordship on that matter. Into Town Harbour, about twelve or fourteen feet water.

As the People here, have thought themselves of Sufficient Consequence, to Choose Delegates, and Address the Congress at Philadelphia. I hope Government will think they have a Sufficient Reason to put some Check upon them. and Support the few Officers of Government.

except the Chief Justice I have scarce a Man that I can put any Confidence in, in Government matters, especially since their choosing of Delegates & *He* hath been very serviceable indeed. Mr. Lyttleton can give Your Lordship, any further information that you may require.

I have the Honor to be Your Lordships [&c.]

George Ja^s Bruere

Mr Lyttleton goes by way of Boston unless He can meet with a passage at Sea.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 37/36, 808.

21 Aug.

MAJOR ROBERT MAGAW TO BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES ¹

Sir

Cape Ann August 21st 1775

I wrote to you on the 17th Inst that no Alarms or appearances of immediate danger had been in this place for some time past Since the 8th Instant when Capt [John] Lindsey [Linzee] Commander of a Sloop of War threw a number of Shot into the Town – the Inhabitants have remained unmolested

on Saturday ev'ning last [August 19] a Man of War & a Tender appear'd off this Harbour we expected an Attack Yesterday they bore away for the Eastward & disappeared – the Inhabitants have nearly completed a small Fort to mount 6–9 Pounders their Spirit seems equal to their Abilities

We have neither Blankets nor Shirts with us some of our Men are sick owing I believe to want of Covering in the Night I have the Honor &c.

Rob^t Magaw Maj
Rifle Batn Cont Service

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Monday, August 21, 1775

The Report of the Committee on the Petition of Benjamin Foster and Jeremiah Obrian, of Machias. Read and accepted.

Whereas the Inhabitants of Machias have been at Considerable Expence In fixing Two Armed Vessels for the Defence of the Sea Coast & are in Continual Danger of having their Harbours Blocked up by the Tenders & Armed Vessels of our Enemies Therefore Resolved that proper Officers be Commissioned to take the Command of said Vessels & that the Commanding Officer who shall be Appointed be authorized to Inlist a proper Number of Sea Men not Exceeding Thirty to Navigate each of said Vessels & that said Officers & Seamen Shall be under such pay of this Colony as Shall be hereafter allowd.

And that the Commanding Officers of sd Vessel from time to Time be directed to Apply to the Committee of Safety of Sd. Machias for Men to Man sd. Vessels upon any Emergency from the Company which is to be stationed at sd Machias under the Command of Capt Stephen Smith & sd. Committee are empowered to order said Men accordingly & when so Ordered by the Committee of Safety on Board they are to be under the Command of the Commanding Officer of sd Vessels –

And whereas Ichabod Jones Late of Machias a known Enemy to the Rights & Libertys of america has fled Leaving at Machias Considerable Estate Real & Personal it is therefore Recommended to the Comtte of Safety of that Place to take Effectual Care of sd Estate Agreeable to the Resolves & Recommendations of the Late Provincial Congress

[Endorsed] In Council, August 21, 1775.

[Endorsed] in the House of Representatives

John Whitcomb, Esq., brought down the Resolve on the Petition of Messrs Foster and Obrian, with the following order of Council thereon, viz:

"In Council, August 21, 1775: Read and the former part of this Resolve concurred, and the latter part is non-concurred. Sent down for concurrence."

Read and non-concurred; the House not being able to determine with sufficient precision where the former part ends, or where the latter part begins.

Afternoon

The Committee on the Petition of a number of the Inhabitants of Machias reported. Read, and recommitted for amendment.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 206, 221.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 1775

Watertown, August 21.

Last Monday Morning [August 14] came to town from Ipswich, 20 of the Prisoners taken at Cape Ann the Tuesday before; who together with the Marines, &c. Prisoners, are gone forward.

A letter from Taunton of last Thursday [August 17], says,

"Tuesday last arrived at Taunton, Capt. Abraham Stephen Remsen, who informs, that on the 26th of last month, in lat. 25,15, Long. 65,30, he spoke with the Ship *Juno*, John Mc Henderson, master, who had been then only 17 Days out from Dublin. Capt. Remsen went on board the *Juno* and tarried about 3 Hours.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

Providence [August 21] 1775

An Act to punish persons, who shall pilot any armed vessels in or out of any of the Harbors, rivers, or bays, in this colony, excepting vessels belonging to some one of the British colonies in America, or the inhabitants thereof,

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that any person, being an inhabitant of any of the British colonies in America, who shall act as a pilot on board any armed ship or vessel, and pilot them in or out of any of the harbors, rivers or bays, in this colony, excepting vessels in the service of some one of the said colonies, or of the inhabitants thereof, shall, upon conviction thereof, by bill, plaint, or information, before the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery of this colony, be punished at the discretion of the said court, by fine and imprisonment not exceeding a fine of £500, lawful money, nor more than twelve months imprisonment.

It is voted and resolved, that this colony will purchase all the gunpowder that shall be imported here from parts beyond the sea, before the 1st day of April next, at the rate of three shillings, lawful money, a pound.

1. Bartlett, ed., *Records of Rhode Island*, VII, 364.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Lunae, 9 HO A.M. August 21st 1775

Ordered, That Col. Lisenard, Mr. Sears, Mr. Thomas Smith and Mr. Robert Yates be a committee to examine Capt. [Melanchton] Lawrence; that

the said committee have power to discharge and liberate Capt. Lawrence if they think proper; that they take with them the letters found with Capt. Lawrence, and that they make report to this Congress.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 111.

New York Gazette, MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 1775

New-York, August 21.

Last Friday, sen'night [August 11] Mr. Benjamin Mumford, the Constitutional Post-Rider, with the Mail from this place, was stopped in his Way across Conanicut Ferry, and taken on Board the *Rose Man of War*; such Letters as were directed to Persons at the Provincial Camp were sent to Admiral [Samuel] Graves, those for Newport, a few excepted, were sent ashore: — Mumford was detained on Board till Sunday Afternoon, when he was, upon the Petition of a Number of Gentlemen of the Town of Newport, discharged.

A Gentleman belonging to Philadelphia arrived here last Friday Evening [August 18] from Boston, by Way of Rhode-Island: The 25th of July, lat. 42, he was taken by the *Glasgow Man of War*, 150 Leagues from the Land, in the Ship *Charming-Sally*,¹ Capt. Thomas Doman, with 2200 Barrels of Flour, from Philadelphia for Lisbon, and carried into Boston on the 4th Instant.—

A Schooner belonging to one Mr. White, was also taken and carried into Boston: She was from Philadelphia for New-Hampshire.² Mr. [Benjamin] Hitchburn, and Mr. White, are two of the Gentlemen that were taken by Capt. [James] Wallace, with some Letters for the Provincial Camp: They are confined on board the *Preston Man of War*.

1. The *Charming Peggy*, Captain Thomas Dowman, whose cargo was purchased for the British army at Boston, but who was permitted to go free with his ship.

2. Schooner *Woodbridge*, John Williamson, master, taken by the *Merlin*. She was bound to Newburyport, not New Hampshire, and had a cargo of flour, bread, bran and corn. She was condemned and sold at Boston.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] August 21st 1775.

Mr. Robert Towers Reports, that he has removed the powder from the New Goal to the powder House. And that he has received from Major [Samuel] Mifflin, the Powder that came by Captain Ferris, which is stored in the Powder House, and is as follows, viz:

2	Barrels	-----wt.	200
3½	do	-----	150
87¼	do	-----	2175
48⅛	do	-----	600
4	Boxes,	-----	100
			<hr/>
			3225 lbs

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 312.

MINUTES OF THE COMMON HALL OF THE BOROUGH OF NORFOLK ¹

At a Common Hall, summoned and held August 21, 1775. Sundry letters from John Macartney, Esq; Commander of his Majesty's ship *Mercury*, to Paul Loyall, Esq; Mayor, were laid before the Hall, and the Hall taking the same into their serious consideration, and being greatly surprised at the contents thereof, it was thereupon

Resolved, that the letters from Capt. Macartney to the worshipful the Mayor, were evidently intended to alarm and intimidate the inhabitants of this borough, were disrespectful to the chief magistrate of this corporation, are an officious intermeddling in the civil government of the town, and contain an implied threatening which the Hall conceive, to be unjustifiable, premature, and indecent. Unjustifiable inasmuch as no reason can be deduced from fact, or any authority be derived from law, to empower Capt Macartney, unsolicited by the magistracy, to interfere in matters within their jurisdiction alone, and much less to hold up to them the idea of violence and compulsion, in a transaction so entirely without the line of his department. Premature, as his conduct in this instance, originates from ill grounded suppositions and mistaken apprehensions, and without any sanction from facts to support them. Indecent, because it imp[li]citly charges the magistracy with a wilful remissness in the exercise of the powers legally vested in them; because the menace is as particularly pointed against them, as if they were the abettors of riot and persecution; because it operates towards the destruction of the persons and properties of a number of his Majesty's subjects, chiefly on account of some accidental insults alledged to have been offered by a few incautious youth, to an individual; because so little regard is shewn to the understandings and feelings of people, as, at the same moment in which this haughty declaration, so big with ruin, is denounced, it is pretended that the execution of it, is to preserve the persons and properties of his Majesty's subjects; as if the utter destruction of their lives and estates, could ever be deemed a preservation of their persons and properties.

Resolved, That the military power, agreeable to the British constitution, is and ought to be under the controul of the civil; and notwithstanding the utterly defenceless state of the town, the body corporate of this borough will never tamely submit to the invasion of their privileges, by the dangerous and untimely interposition of military force.

Resolved, that this corporation will continue steadfastly to adhere to those substantial principles of good government which ought to actuate the minds of all His Majesty's faithful subjects; and that they embrace this opportunity to make this public and solemn declaration, that notwithstanding their exposed and defenceless situation which cannot be remedied, unbiassed with fear, unappalled at the threats of unlawful power, they will never desert the righteous cause of their country, plunged as it is into dreadful and unexpected calamities.

Ordered, that a copy of this resolution be, by the Mayor, transmitted to John Macartney, Esq; commander of his Majesty's ship *Mercury*.

John Boush, T.C.

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, Sept. 2, 1775.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER ¹

1775 [White Point, North Edisto River]

Aug. 21 Towed up to Block Island, and down to Slan's Bluff, where we waited the tide, and cooked provisions. At 4 P.M. we run down to White Point, and came to, to wait tide to New-Cut.

1. "Hatter's Report", Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

PROCLAMATION OF GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN ¹

East Florida (Copy)

By His Excellency Patrick Tonyn, Esqr Captain General, Governor & Commander in Chief in and over His Majesty's said Province, Chancellor and Vice Admiral of the same –

A Proclamation

Whereas I have received information from Alvara Lofthouse Master of the Brigantine called the *Betsy*, that on the Seventh day of August Instant, He the said Master being on Board the said Brigantine then lying at anchor off the Bar of St. Augustine in the Province aforesaid; A Sloop Commanded by one Clement Lempriere run alongside of the said Brigantine and in a Hostile and violent manner instantly boarded her with Twenty six Men; some armed with Muskets and Bayonets fixed, others with Swords and Pistols, and were Commanded by the said Clement Lempriere and one Simon Tuffs, that the said Clement Lempriere ordered a Guard over the said Master and the People and then in an audacious and Piratical like manner opened the Hatches and took out of the said Brigantine, and put on Board the said Sloop one hundred and eleven Barrels of Gun powder belonging to His Majesty, and about four hundred Weight the property of Mr. Robert Payne, of St Augustine Merchant. And the said – Clement Lempriere for a justification of his conduct shewed to the said Master a Letter or Commission from Henry Laurens, styling himself President of the Council of Safety in Charles Town, to Seize the said Brigantine and take whatever Gunpowder or Warlike Stores he could find on board –

And whereas such proceedings are not only unwarrantable and illegal, but subject the Offenders & Perpetrators thereof to great and severe Pains and Penalties, and it is – highly necessary such atrocious Offenders should receive the Punishment due to their Crimes. To the Intent therefore that the Persons concerned in the above Piracy may be apprehended, and brought to condign Punishment, I have thought fit by and with the advice of His Majesty's Honble Council to issue this my Proclamation offering and I do hereby promise a reward of two hundred Pounds Sterling to any Person or persons who shall apprehend and bring to Justice said Clement Lempriere and Simon Tuffs and their associates in the said Act of Piracy. And I do hereby likewise offer His Majesty's Most Gracious Pardon to any one of the Persons on Board the said Sloop Commanded by the said Clement Lempriere who shall give certain information of the other

Persons concerned in the aforesaid – Act of Piracy, excepting Clement Lempriere and the other Persons herein before named –

Given under my Hand and the Great Seal of His Majesty's said Province in the Council Chamber at St. Augustine this Twenty first day of August in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Seventy five, and in the Fifteenth year of His Majesty's reign

(Signed) Pat. Tonyn

By his Excellency's command –

(Signed) David Yeats Depy. Secry

God Save the King

1. Contemporary copy, Papers CC, 51, I, 19, 20, N.A. The proclamation was forwarded to Congress in George Washington's letter of Dec. 18, 1775. It was found, along with many other letters and papers on board the prize brig *Betsy*, sent into Beverly by John Manley.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BERMUDA, AUG. 21 [1775]”¹

Upwards of one hundred barrels of gun powder have been taken out of our magazine; supposed by a sloop from Philadelphia, and a schooner from South-Carolina. It is very easily accomplished, from the magazine being situated far distant from town, and no dwelling house near it.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, Sept. 11, 1775.

22 Aug.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

[Watertown] Tuesday, August 22, 1775

Ordered, That Colonel Cushing, Colonel Thayer, and Colonel Freeman, be a Committee to consider in what manner the Armed Vessels established by a Resolve of this Court, shall be supplied with Provisions and Ammunition.

A Petition of Edward Emerson, praying that he may be allowed to fix a Schooner, which he had taken from the enemy, for a Privateer, for the defence of the Sea-Coast in the eastern part of the Colony, &c., was read, and committed to Colonel Spaulding, Major Johnson, Mr. Cross, Colonel Thompson, and Mr. Crane.

1. Mass. Arch.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JOHN TOLLEMACHE, R.N.¹

You are hereby required and directed to take the *Palliser* Transport, Walter Waters, Master, under your Convoy and proceed with her as soon as possible in his Majesty's Sloop under your Command to North Carolina, where having delivered the inclosed Dispatches to Governor [Josiah] Martin, and Capt. [Francis] Parry, you are forthwith to go to Charles Town, and deliver to Captain [Edward] Thornbrough of his Majesty's Sloop *Tamer* the Pacquet addressed to him. You are then to compleat your Provisions to four months and return with the

Tamer to Cape Fear or otherwise as Captain Thornbrough shall direct. The *Palliser* Transport is to receive on board the Cannon and other Ordnance Stores at Fort Johnston. You are to give all the assistance in your power to that end, and in general to the Service she is going upon. And whereas I have ordered his Majestys Sloops *Tamer* and *Cruizer* to come to Boston as soon as possible, you are to remain stationed at North Carolina until further Orders, Using your best endeavours to give all the Protection and Assistance in your Power to his Majesty's Governor of that Colony and to all other his faithful Subjects.

You are to take, burn, sink and destroy all the pirate Vessels of whatever Construction armed or intended to be used against his Majesty's forces by Sea or Land. And whereas when Fort Johnston is dismantled, there will no longer be occasion for his Majesty's Sloop to be constantly at Anchor before it; And it being of very great consequence to his Majesty's Service that all the Ships of the Squadron should be cruising on the Coast to prevent the Colonies having improper Communication with each other, and the Rebels from receiving Supplies of Ammunition. You are hereby required and directed, while the Season for cruising continues not to remain in harbour longer than shall be absolutely necessary to victual and water, unless by special requisition from his Majestys Governor of any of the Colonies you may arrive at, and it also appears to you absolutely necessary and requisite for their safety and protection, or for any other publick Service.

And in case you shall be so fortunate as to seize a Vessel with Gunpowder, Arms and Ammunition, you are to come away with her to Rhode Island or Boston anchoring yourself with her. And whereas the Garrison here is in great want of Rice, should you meet a Vessel laden with that Article, whether she is in Breach of any Act of Parliament or not, you are to bring her straight to Boston.

You are to exert your best Endeavours on all Occasions for the good of the Service, and to punctually execute these and all other Orders and Directions you have already received.

Given under my hand on board his Majestys Ship *Preston* at Boston the 22d August 1775

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 188–190, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM C. BURNABY, R.N., HIS
MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Merlin* ¹

You are hereby required and directed to take the Transports mentioned in the inclosed List bound to Annapolis, Windsor and Cumberland, under your Convoy, and proceed with them with all possible Dispatch to Annapolis Royal, where leaving Lieut. [John] Bourmaster's Division under the direction of that Officer, you are to proceed with the rest to Windsor, and either remain there yourself or go on to Fort Cumberland Harbour, as you shall upon Inquiry find best for his Majts. Service. And whereas the purpose of sending these Transports is to procure forage and Cattle for the Garrison, You are to take the utmost Care to

guard them from all Attempts of Pyrates, and to give every Assistance in your power in order that they may return time enough to make another Trip before the Winter Season is too far advanced. And whereas I have ordered Captain [Edward] LeCras to send the *Tartar* to Annapolis to take such Vessels as may be ready and proceed with them to Boston you are not to pay any further regard to the Annapolis Division after you have seen them safe there, but bestow your whole Care upon those intended for Windsor and Cumberland. And to enable you the better to perform this Service, you are hereby required and directed if you meet the *Halifax* to take her under your Command, If not I shall send her after you the moment she arrives.

You are to procure every Information you can of the Rebels Designs and to do your utmost to defeat them, and you are hereby required and directed to take, burn, sink and destroy all and every Vessel of whatever Construction you meet armed, or evidently intended to be used against his Majesty's Forces by Sea or Land, or against any of the Colonies in obedience to his Majesty's just Authority.

In case of your meeting the *Hope* or *St Lawrence* Schooners, who also have Convoys, you will give their Commanders such Orders as you think best for the Service, but I would have the *Hope* return to Boston immediately.

You are to continue with the Windsor and Cumberland Divisions of Transports until they are laden, and then return with them to Boston.

Given under, my Hand on Board his Majs. Ship *Preston* at Boston the 22d. August 1775.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 478-480, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH, R.N.,
HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Tamer*¹

Whereas I have sent the Honble Capt [John] Tollemache in his Majesty's Sloop *Scorpion* to relieve the Cruizer and to be stationed untill further Orders at North Carolina, and whereas in the present weak State of his Majs. Sloops *Tamer* and *Cruizer* it is absolutely necessary they should come where they can be repaired and refitted with dispatch.

You are therefore directed and required to compleat your Provisions to four months as soon as possible and taking the *Scorpion* with you proceed to Cape Fear, where you will find the *Palliser* Transport Walter Waters Master. You are to give all the Assistance in your Power to the Service she is upon, And when she is ready to depart (and no time should be lost) You are to take her under your Convoy, and, ordering Captain [Francis] Parry of his Majs Sloop *Cruizer* to accompany you, repair with all convenient haste to Boston. In your way hither you are to seize all Vessels with Provisions, and as the Garrison at Boston is in great want of Rice, you are to bring a Vessel laden with that Article if one can be met with, whether she is navigating according to Law [or not]

Given under my Hand on board his Majs. Ship *Preston* at Boston the 22d August 1775.

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 480, 481, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY, R.N.,
H.M.S. *Cruizer* ¹

You are hereby required and directed to get his Majesty's Sloop under your Command ready to return to Boston in Company with the *Tamer*, which I have ordered to join you at Cape Fear, and you are in the mean time to give all the Assistance in your power to the Service the *Palliser* Transport is ordered upon, that if possible when the *Tamer* arrives you may be all ready to come away together. The Honble. Captain [John] Tollemache of his Majs. Sloop *Scorpion* is to relieve you on the North Carolina Station.

Given under my Hand on board his Majs. Ship *Preston* at Boston the 22 August 1775.

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 482, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO LORD WILLIAM CAMPBELL, GOVERNOR OF
SOUTH CAROLINA ¹

My Lord

Preston at Boston 22 August 1775

I have had the honor to receive your Letter June 30. I beg your Lordship to accept my Congratulations upon his Maj. gracious Appointment of you to the Government of South Carolina, and my hearty wishes that your Lordship may have a successul Administration; although the Accounts you have given me of the King's Affairs in that Province are unpromising indeed. It gives me particular uneasiness that so far from being able to increase the Number of the Kings Ships at South Carolina I am under the necessity of ordering the *Tamer* hither. Your Lordship may have been informed of her very bad Condition from Captain [Edward] Thornborough, and of the almost impossibility of her remaining any longer in the Service without the greatest Risque. For a small time only your Lordship will be without any King's Ship on the Carolina Station, but whenever the Squadron is reinforced, or I am otherwise enabled you may depend upon having every assistance in my Power.

The necessity of a frequent Intercourse between the Colonies and Boston, and for Frigates and small Vessels to be within each Government is evident; but My Lord 'tis a most distressing Situation to Know this, and yet be incapable of sending such succours to all Parts of the Continent as the Exigencies of the King's Service make absolutely necessary.

I am much obliged to your Lordship for your good opinion of my Zeal for the King's Service, and hope you will consider in its true light the urgent necessity

of calling away the *Tamer*, in whose room I will send the very first Sloop I have to spare.

I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 482, 483, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO SIR JAMES WRIGHT,
GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA¹

Sir

Preston at Boston 22d August 1775

I received by Captain [John] Tollemache your letter [of] June 27, and am extremely glad to find that as his Majs. Service did not allow of my sending a Sloop of War to Savannah, according to my Directions from my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, it has not, in your Excellencys opinion, been detrimental to the Kings Interest within your Government;² however as that may not long continue to be the case I consider myself still obliged to send a Sloop whenever it is in my Power. Lord Wm. Campbell and Governor [Josiah] Martin have made Representations to the same effect with your Excellency, and have earnestly requested that means be used to keep a constant and frequent Intercourse between the Southern Colonies and Boston; but as I do not think it safe for any other Vessels but Men of War to be employ'd on this Service, we must be denied this pleasure untill the Number of the Squadron is increased, when I shall do the utmost in my power on this and every other occasion for the good of the King's Service.

It is certainly reported here that four hundred Barrels of the Kings Gunpowder intended for Georgia were taken by the Rebels: I hope it is really intended to be appropriated as your Excellency imagines; but at this Juncture I fear it has taken a different direction. I am &c

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 484, MassHS Transcript.

2. Graves was deceived, as the South Carolinians had hoped, by the spurious dispatch substituted for Wright's original. See Wright's letter to Graves, June 27, 1775.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO JOSIAH MARTIN, GOVERNOR OF
NORTH CAROLINA¹

Sir,

Preston Boston 22 August 1775

I am honoured with your Excellencys Letters May 27 and July 8 fully representing to me the bad Condition of his Majesty's Affairs in the Province under your Excellency's Government, and earnestly requesting the Establishment of some regular and constant Channel of Intercourse between the Colonies and Boston. Lord Wm Campbell and Sir Jas Wright have made the same Representation. I am also satisfied how useful such a Measure would be at this Crisis, but I can only reply to your Excellency, as I have done to his Majs Governors aforementioned, that as such an Intercourse can only be safely carried on by the King's Ships it is absolutely out of my Power at present to appoint any to that Service.

The ultimate determination of Government with respect to these Colonies is hourly Expected; if it is determined on to support the supreme Authority of Parliament no doubt large Reinforcements will soon arrive and I shall be enabled

to send a sufficient Number of Ships to the Southward to answer every purpose of Government.

Captain [John] Tollemache who delieves Capt. Barry [sic! Francis Parry] will I am sure gladly co-operate with your Excellency in all things for the benefit of the King's Service, and I flatter myself, as your Excellency knows the necessity of preventing Ammunition being brought to the Rebels, you will think it right that Captain Tollemache should cruize as often as possible, which I have ordered him to do.

I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 485, 486, MassHS Transcript.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 22 [August 1775]

The *Somerset* now proceeded to Halifax with the Victualler, the *Merlin* under particular Orders with a large Convoy of Transports for the Bay of Fundy; and the *Charming Nancy* Transport, and several other Vessels, for England, these last being seen over St George's Bank by the *Lively*.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 187, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Swan*, JAMES AYSCOUGH, COMMANDING ¹

August 1775

At Single Anchor Bristol Harbour

Tuesday 22d

Saw two Privateers running up the River the *Rose* mde Signal to Chace Do Bore away and Gave Chace 1/2 past 10 left off Chace, and Anchor'd in 3 fm being Unacquainted to run any higher Sent The Tender in Chace of a Brigg finding themselves chais'd they run ashore off Warrick Neck all the People left the Vessel

at 1 P M sent the Pinnacle with the Lieut and ten Men to assist in Gitting her off, a number of Arm'd People a[t] some Dist fire on our People on Bd the Brigg & Tender to prevent her Being brought off, At 3 Got the Brigg off & Anchor'd close by the Ship

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/960.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*" ¹

August 1775

in Secunnit Passage

Tuesday 22

A M saw 2 Rebel Privateers in the N W at 8 fir'd 2 Guns and made the Sigl to prepare for Action, 10 chas'd a Brigg and run her on Shore at Warwick Neck at 11 we run on Shore about 2 Miles to the Eastwd of Connanicot point, Carried out the Kedge Anchor

P M Weigh'd the Kedge Anchor and let go the small Bower 3 fm sent our Tender in Shore to assist to get the Brigg off

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO NATHANIEL SHAW, Jr.¹

Sir

Norwich 22 Aug-1775.

Your's of this day P Capt [Eli] Leavensworth is before me Observe the Contents – Hope [William] Packwood may arrive Soon; however think it best That as New York, I hear have lately received a quantity of Powder, That the three hundred weight sent to General [David] Wooster be returned in whole or in part – have therefore written an Order below for that End, I think at Present That the Soldiers be supplied with half pound of Powder, ball and Flint in proportion –

The Earliest Account of Packwood's arrival will be expected – I am, with great Esteem & Regard sir [&c.]

Jon Trumbull

1. Shaw Transcripts, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Martis, 9 Ho. A.M. August 22d, 1775.

The Congress being informed that Colonel Edward Fleming and Captain Anthony Rutgers cannot attend as commissioners to manage erecting and finishing the fortifications ordered to be erected on the banks of the Hudson river, in the Highlands.

Resolved and Ordered, That Captain Samuel Bayard, and Captain William Bedlow be and they are hereby appointed commissioners for that purpose, instead of Col. Edward Fleming and Capt. Anthony Rutgers, with the like powers of the other commissioners.

Mr [Isaac] Sears than moved (and was seconded by Major [Henry] Williams), in the words following, to wit:

I move that the committee appointed to superintend the building of the forts in the Highlands be authorized to procure such cannon and other stores as may be necessary for completely fortifying and equipping the said forts. And the same being unanimously agreed to,

Resolved and Ordered, nemine con. that the committee appointed to superintend the building of the forts in the Highlands, be authorized to procure such cannon and other stores as may be necessary for completely fortifying and equipping the said forts.

1. N.Y. Prov. Cong., I.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTYS SLOOP *Nautilus*,
JOHN COLLINS, COMMANDING ¹

August 1775

Moor'd off Newcastle [Delaware River]

Tuesday 22d

A M Boarded a Schooner from St Eustatia, having Coffee, Cocoa, a Bale of Gause, 3 [pipes] of Gin, 1 partly full, 39 stone Bottles of Gin, 2 three pounders mounted upon Carriages, 3 Musquets Compleat, 23 Incompleat, 2 Cags of Gunpowder, about 30 pounds each; 7 three pound Shot, 20 Swivel Shot, 3 Cartouch

Boxes, one of them compleat with Ball, 3 Powder Horns; all which we took out of the Schooner except the Coffee and Cocoa; sent 2 petty Officers and 8 Men on board the Schooner to take Charge of her: ² fired 2 swivels and brought a Sloop too. Little Wind and Sultry Wr P M at 7 took a Sloop with 232 Bags of Coffee on board, sent a Mids and 4 Men on board her.³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/629.
2. The *Tryal* schooner, James Warden, master, condemned and sold at Boston in Sept. 1775. See also Diary of Christopher Marshall, Aug. 24, 1775.
3. The *Polly* sloop, George Walker, master, from the French Islands, condemned and sold at Boston in September, 1775. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NORTH CAROLINA HELD AT HILLSBOROUGH ¹

Tuesday August 22d 1775

Whereas there are several offenders against the Continental Association now confined at Wilmington, it is resolved that an Express be immediately sent from this Town to Wilmington, requiring the Committee of Wilmington to deliver all such Delinquents as may be in Custody to a Guard directed to receive the same and safely to convey such delinquents from County to County in the most expeditious manner, that they may be brought before this Congress in order that their Demerits may be strictly enquired into, with such papers as were found in their Custody.²

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 170, 171.
2. There is no further reference to this subject in the journal, so the presumption is that Wilmington had no prisoners to forward. The actions of committees in cases of violation of the Continental Association was to post them for the proper resentment of the people.

DANIEL DESAUSSURE TO HENRY LAURENS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Sir Beaufort 22d June [sic August] 1775 ²

Capt. [Clement] Lampriere Spared me a barrel of Pork & a Barrel of ship Bread, for the use of the Melitia when Cal'd here to Guard the powder, but the former not being used, was omitted to be put on board the scooner that carried the powder, have therefore put it on board a Scooner of Mr. Josiah Smith's & Requested of him to Receive it for you – I am with Esteem Sir [&c.]

D: DeSausure.

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, I, 189.
2. This letter is endorsed by Laurens: "Dan Desausure 22d June 1775 – supposed to mean August Recd 29th Augt"

ARTHUR MIDDLETON TO WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON ¹

[Extract] Council of Safety, Charles Town August 22d 1775
Dear Sir [Dr. George] Milligen has taken himself off; his flight was precipitate; he skulks between the Fort & the *Tamar*; I dont know that he had any pressing necessity for such a Manoeuvre, but undoubtedly he longs to be a great man, &

by this Step has begun his Carrer of Glory; probably he had an unconquerable Dislike to the mode of Cloathing lately adopted in these scarce times & by no means wish'd to be exalted in this damn'd pot Country, but would rather a high place in Scotland. . . .²

Our powder taken by [Clement] Lempriere is now safe at Wappoo, & will be lodged this night – [John] Darrell's brig is said to be upon the Coast with 400 Stand of good musketts, powder &c. We have not receiv'd any Tidings of the Frenchman – if you remember I never expected from him any great matters.

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, XXVII, 133–136

2. Referring to the coat of tar and feathers administered to the gunner at Fort Johnson, see Peter Timothy's letter of Aug. 13, 1775, to Drayton.

PETER TIMOTHY, SECRETARY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY, TO
WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON¹

[Extract]

Dear Sir [Tunes] Tebout is just come in with an account of the last acquisition of powder at Wappoo. Tomorrow morning we shall receive it escorted by artillery & grenadier Miletia, & 50 provincials who have been diverted with a March to Beaufort, by way of a beginning, headed by Will Cattel – a most curious Letter from the [illegible] has been intercepted by the little-river Comee addressed to Capt. [Tyringham] House [Howe] of the *Glasgow* Man of War, the original is sent for & I hope to give it to you in print – was it in my hands should have sent a copy. The *Eagle* Packet sailed yesterday, & 'tis said Ld W. [Campbell] himself carried his Dispatches on board the *Tamar* the day before. . . .²

Charles Town 22d [August] 1775

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, XXVII, 131, 132

2. The journal of Captain Edward Thornbrough, of the *Tamer*, records the sailing of the *Eagle* Packet on Aug. 22, 1775, but contains no reference to Lord William Campbell, on that or the previous day.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER¹

1775 [Ashley River, Charleston]

Aug. 22. Got under way and towed up through New-Cut and down to Wappoo, and there waited tide, to come through. At 4 P.M. we got under way, and run into the Cut, and towed through; and came to anchor in Ashley River, and laid all the night.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*, I.

"COPY OF A LETTER FROM MR. BRUERE, GOVERNOR OF BERMUDA, TO
MR. EDWARD HAY, GOVERNOR OF BARBADOES"¹

Sir, I beg the favour of your Excellency, to acquaint any of the Captains of His Majesty's Sloops of War that the Powder Magazine was broke open on the 14th Inst & about 100 Barrels stole out – It may be supposed that they would have taken away all the Gunpowder, but I imagine they thought the remaining Barrels of Gunpowder would not bear removing for it seems one of the Barrels (near the

Water's Edge) we may suppose the head came out. It is imagined that it may be carried off, either to Philadelphia or South Carolina, as a correspondence by some of the Inhabitants of this Place hath been carried on to those two places. And a Sloop belonging to Virginia called the *Lady Catherine* in Ballast Bound to Philadelphia, Geo Ord Master, was seen under Sail the next morning, but could not be overtaken by the Custom house boat; And likewise a Schooner called the *Charles Town and Savannah* Packet, John Turner, Master, belonging to South Carolina with 2,000 Sawed Stones, bound to Barbadoes, but perhaps may have altered her Voyage & may be gone to South Carolina, she cleared out the 11th Augt at the same time the Sloop did & was under sail the 15th of Augt in the morning, but the Custom house Boat could not overtake either of them. This is certainly a most daring & Villianous Crime. As this place from its' remote situation, might otherwise have remained easy and unconcerned, as it is greatly to be feared that some of the Inhabitants must have given assistance, I hope your Excellency will be able to perswade some of His Majts Captains of Men of War to call here for further Intelligence, and to acquaint Genl [Thomas] Gage of it, & likewise his Majts Ministers at home. As I have endeavoured to Charter or Hire a Bermuda Vessel to carry some live Stock to the General, Mrs Gage &ca and to some of the Sick & Wounded, & they have all refused me, giving for answer, that their Vessel would be burnt. I have the honor to be &c.

George James Bruere Govr

Bermuda 22d. of Augt. 1775

P.S, I am in great tribulation fearing I may have lost either one or two Sons

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309, enclosed with Vice Admiral James Young's letter of October 23, 1775, to Philip Stephens. A copy is in PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, 53d, LC Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO THOMAS JARVIS, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL
OF ANTIGUA ¹

Sr. *Portland* English Harbour Antigua 22d Augt 1775.

I had the honor to receive your Letter of the 17th Inst. dated from the Council Chamber at St. Johns in which you inform me the Council of this His Majestys Island Antigua "have no authority to prevent the buying & selling of Merchandize which hath been fairly imported & would advise an application to the Commander in Chief of these Islands for a proclamation to restrain the selling of Powder & other Warlike Stores to the No. American Traders.[""] I cannot avoid remarking to You & the Gentlemen of His Majestys Council, that notwithstanding Gunpowder & Warlike Stores may have been fairly imported to these Islands yet I presume the selling them as Merchandize to the No American Traders, at a time their Countrymen are declared to be in open rebellion will be deemed Treasonable especially as the Kings proclamation for prohibiting the exportation of Gunpowder & Warlike Stores from the Kingdom of Great Britain &c hath been published in the *London Gazette* of the 19th Octo, 1774 & of the 5th. of April 1775 which last Proclamation still continues in force, And I have no doubt before the expiration thereof the same will be extended to a longer time.

I think it my Duty as Commander in Chief of the King's Ships &c employed on this Station to take every precaution that may be in my power to prevent or put a stop to a practice so very pernicious & dishonorable; And I have therefore agreeable to the advice of the Kings Council (communicated by your Letter) wrote to the Commr, if Chief of these Islands to request, He will immediately issue a Proclamation to forbid the Exportation of Gunpowder and other Warlike Stores from any of His Majestys Leeward Islands for the space of Six Months. &c.

James Young

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, LC Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CRAISTER GREATHEAD, GOVERNOR OF THE
LEEWARD ISLANDS ¹

Sir

Portland, English Harbour, Antigua 22d August 1775

Having received certain intelligence that sundry Vessels belonging to North America, go to the French Dutch & Danish Islands in these Seas and offer unlimited prices for Gunpowder and other Warlike Stores, I think it my duty, as Commander in Chief of the Kings Ships and Vessels employ'd on this station to acquaint you therewith, and to express my apprehension; that as many of the North America Traders come in daily to all His Majts Caribbee Islands, where tis probable they may use the like endeavours to purchase Gunpowder &c at any rate and perhaps the great price offered for these articles may tempt private adventurers to run risques and dispose of the same to them, which must prove to the utmost disservice to His Majesty, by thus assisting the North Americans with ammunition & Warlike stores at a time they are declared to be in open Rebellion.

I do therefore entreat, you will cause this matter to be duly considered in your Council, and be pleased to direct that a proclamation may be immediately issued through the different islands of this Government, to forbid the shipping Gunpowder or other Warlike stores, either Coastwise or otherwise by any Ships or Vessels, whatever, for the space of six months.

I have inclosed herewith a Copy of His Majts Order in Council of the 5th April last, for prohibiting the exporting out of the Kingdom of Great Britain, or carrying Coastwise &c Gunpowder or any sort of Arms or Ammunition during the space of Six months to commence from the 19th. day of April last, and as the reasons which occasioned the issuing said Order in Council still exist, I have no doubt but the same will be extended to a further time. I have the honor to be Sir [&c.]

Ja^s Young

To The Honorable Craister Greathead Esqr Commander in Chief for the time being of all His Majts Leeward Charibbee Islands in America, Vice Admiral and Ordinary of the same &c at St. Kitts.

The 22d Augt 1775, I wrote to the same purport as the foregoing to

His Excellency Thos Shirley Esqr Captain General & Governor in Chief in and over His Majesty's Island of Dominica in America, and the dependencies

thereupon, Chancellor, Ordinary and Vice Admiral of the same &c. at Dominica

The 30th Augt 1775. I wrote to the same purport

To His Excellency The Honorable Edward Hay Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over His Majesty's Island of Barbadoes in America and the dependencies thereupon, Chancellor Ordinary and Vice Admiral of the same &c. at Barbadoes

The 30th Augt 1775 I likewise wrote to the same purport

To the Honble William Young Esqr Commander in Chief for the time being of all His Majts Southern Charibbee Islands in America, Chancellor Ordinary and Vice Admiral of the same &c at Grenada

Ja^s Young

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, LC Transcript.

23 Aug.

JOHN WENTWORTH, GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO THEODORE ATKINSON,
SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ¹

Sir — Fort William and Mary, August 23, 1775

I find it necessary to go to sea for a few days, and must desire that in the mean time you will use your best endeavours to preserve peace and quietness as much as possible. I am &c.

J Wentworth

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 390.

REPORT OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FORTIFICATIONS TO THE PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In consequence of a vote of this Committee to us Directed we have viewed the several advantageous pieces of ground for erecting Fortifications to annoy our Enemies from making attack, or commitg any outrageous Insult upon the Defenceless Capital of this Province: and we do report as follows, viz.

1st. That we most humbly conceive that an Entrenchment hove up on the height of Seavy's Island so called with two Twenty four Pounders & four or six smaller Cannon (filled also with musquetry) would greatly Retard the progress of any ships-of-war sailing up the River.

2dly. That a Battery erected at Peirce's Island of light Heavy Cannon, wou'd greatly annoy the Enemy's advances, if not Totally disconcert their Intentions, (by carrying away Masts, Rigging, &c.)

3dly. That John Langdon Esqrs Island is a most Extraordinary Peice of Ground (form'd by nature) for a Fortification that commands the River from Henderson's Point so caled, and capable of mounting fifty Heavy Cannon, and wou'd Inevitably Oblige any ship to Remove that would attempt to lye before the Town.

4thly. That a Battery of six Heavy Cannon on Church Hill wou'd be of Infinite service in cannonading any ships of War whatever from Henderson's Point up the River & before the Town.

Annexed to this is an Inventory of Cannon & stores now in the Town – all of which we submit to the Superiour Judgment of the Committee of the Town to Represent to the Provincial Congress.

Portsmouth, Augst 23d 1775.

Titus Salter, Geo. Turner, Rob't Parker, Geo. Wentworth, Geo. Gains
Committee

[Enclosure]

3 Cannon of 32 Pounders	Empleymnts wanting.
1 24	30 Shot of 32 lb
9 4	12 24
3 Brass 2 field Peices.	18 12
1 Iron 1 do.	20 9
2 Brass Swivels.	40 6
2 Howitts.	40 4
	30 3
	700 grape shot.

[Endorsed] A true copy By order of the Committee

H. Wentworth, Chairman.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 580.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT ¹

Sir Yesterday, I received Advice from Boston that a Number of Transports have sailed on a Second Expedition for fresh Provisions: As they met with Such Success before it is probable they may pursue the same Course only advancing farther: We think Montauk Point on Long Island a very probable Place of their Landing: I have therefore thought it Best to give you the earliest Intelligence. But I do not mean to confine your Attention or Vigilance to that Place – you will please to extend your Views as far as the Mischief may be probably intended –

We have no Transactions of Sufficient Consequence in the Camp to make a Part of a Letter I am Sir [&c.]

Camp at Cambridge

G W

August 23rd 1775

P.S. You will please to let me know in your next What Progress you make with the Hunting Shirts –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown Wednesday,] Augst 23d 1775.

[The Committee appointed to consider how the two Armed Vessels at Machias should be supplied with Provisions and Ammunition, reported. Read and accepted.]

Resolved that there be paid out of the Publick Treasury of this Colony to Capt Jeremiah Obrian appointed Commander of the Armed Schooner *Diligent* & of the Sloop *Machias Liberty* now Lying in the Harbour of Machias fixed for the Purpose

of Guarding the Sea Coast the Sum of One hundred & Sixty Pounds Lawful Money of this Colony for Supplying the men with Provisions And Amunition Also that there be Delivered to the Said Obrian out of the Colony Store One hundred Cannon Balls of three Pounds Weight Each & Two hundred Swivel Balls for all which & the captures he Shall make he is to Account with this Court.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 6.

BENJAMIN HICHBORN TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

May it please your Excellency!

Preston at Boston 23d Augt 1775

Having been for several weeks past, confined on board his Majesty's Ships as the Bearer of some exceptionable Letters, I was yesterday admitted to an interview with the Admiral; by his direction I have told him a state of facts which I presume must justify my Conduct to every candid Mind. – By the Admiral I am informed, that your interference is necessary to my Enlargement –

Suffer me to entreat your Excellency, not to protract my Confinement, as my critical State of Health, makes it peculiarly disagreeable & hazardous –

I am with greatest respect your Excellencys [&c.]

Benj^a Hichborn

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO BENJAMIN HICHBORN ¹

(Copy)

Sir,

Boston August 23d 1775.

I have received your Letter of this Days Date. I understand you were sent here by Captain [James] Wallace to the Admiral, and therefore don't conceive my Interference necessary for your Enlargement. If the Admiral knows no Cause for your farther Detention I know of none. I am Sir, &ca.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston, 23 August 1775]

Captain [John] Tollemache of the *Scorpion*, that was ordered some days ago into Nantasket Road, sailed for Cape Fear to be stationed at North Carolina.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 187, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA ¹

Sir,

Preston Boston 23 August 1775

I am to thank your Excellency for three Letters by the Pacquet, one inclosing an Affidavit. What relates to the New York and Philadelphia Privateers being on this Coast, and of the force there mentioned is not to be credited.

I have letters from Captain [James] Wallace who has visited the Vineyard, Montock, Gardiners, and Fishers Islands not a Fortnight since, and he does not mention a Syllable of any Privateers but those of Providence, which are Kept in the River by our Ships. However I do not slight the information but think it

probable that all the Colonies will have Cruizers. I shall endeavour to keep a pretty good force in your Neighbourhood, and then it will not be difficult to frustrate any designs the Rebels may have on your Excellency's Government, now become almost the only Resource we have on the Continent.

The *Diligent* is certainly taken by Surprise. The Account of the Philadelphia Sloop with Provisions I believe is also indisputable; but I suspect she was bound there, and that the carrying in is a trick to answer some purpose.

The *Merlin* sails Today or Tomorrow with eighteen Transports for the Bay of Fundy.

We cannot but be extremely obliged for the refreshments we draw from your Excellency's Government, and I hope there is no private transaction inconsistent with the Generals and my Application to your Excellency, but except what the Pacquet has now brought I know but of one Vessel that has twice brought us Cattle from Nova Scotia; so that I apprehend there may be Exportations with your Excellency's Pass that do not come to us. I shall do all in my Power to prevent an abuse of your Excellency's Indulgence, and beg may be acquainted if any such discovery is made. I am &c.

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 486, 487, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

Providence [August 23] 1775

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, the members of the upper house, who live in the county of Providence, the deputies of the town of Providence; Metcalfe Bowler, William Bradford, John Dexter, Joseph Anthony, Daniel Mowry, Jr. and Joshua Babcock, Esqs, or the major part of them, together with such other members of the General Assembly, as may be present, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, during the recess of the General Assembly, to act upon any sudden important emergency; with full power of taking all prudent and necessary measures for the safety of this colony, and the colonies in general.

That they be particularly empowered to employ the two armed vessels in the service of this colony, or either of them, in such manner, and upon such voyage, as they shall think conducive to the public interest; and that this act continue in force until the next session of Assembly.

1. Bartlett, ed., *Records of Rhode Island*, VII, 365.

SAMUEL AND WILLIAM VERNON TO GEORGE HALEY, LONDON ¹

[Extract]

Newport, Aug't 23, 1775

Sir: The *Venus*, *Othello* and *Hampden* are all safely arrived at Montego Bay, Jamaica. The opp[r]ession of the British Parliament, or rather of the Ministry is felt in every port of America, truely felt in North America, by some Individuals sensibly so, indeed Tools of Government, of the Navy, especially, I am sorry to say, many of them are most glaringly partial in doing what they are pleased to

call Duty; by taking possession of those persons' Vessels with whom they are not intimately or somehow connected, other Persons' property they seize and send to Boston coming from any part of the World. Our Brig *Royal Charlotte*,² John Knowles, Master, from Jamaica, loaded with Rum and Sugar, Cap'n [James] Wallace, of his Majesty's Ship *Rose*, on the 19th June seized and sent to Boston, notwithstanding the condition of the Port Bill, and of any Ports being free and open, is that they continued their Trade to Great Britain and the British Islands in the West Indies, yet we say in direct violation of the Act, he sent our Vessel and Cargo to Boston where she now remains in possession of Admiral [Samuel] Greaves, Ill[e]gally held, to our prejudice, upwards of £2000 sterling. Whereas between the 19th of June and this Date, the said Wallace hath released and given up above Ten Sail of Vessels from Hispaniola and other Ports, loaded with Molasses, Sugar, Coffee, Wine, &c. &c. This partial conduct of Cap'n Wallace we can not account for, certainly we must recover adequate Damages of him, if all Law and Justice is not abrogated with you, for which purpose we have made a legal protest, and perhaps may be the subject of Litigation in your Courts of Law . . . The Depredations committed by this petty Tyrant upon our Trade and the defenceless Town of Newport is shocking to human Nature, he is a savage beyond belief and description; you know we have three other Vessels at Jamaica that it's probable will fall into his hands, as we daily expect them. We do not expect any favour, as we have no connection with Scotch Men, whose influence intirely governs him, and whose principals are notoriously abhorrent to the present Family, at least those who reside with us are peculiarly so . . . [&c.]

S. & W. Vernon

1. *Collections Rhode Island Historical Society*, VII, 301–303.

2. The *Royal Charlotte* is not listed in Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

MAJOR JOHN BROWN TO BRIGADIER GENERAL RICHARD MONTGOMERY¹

Sir This Minute Sergt [Peter] Griffin arrived from St John's where he has been sent by Capt Stewart as a Spy, he brings intelligence that the two Vessels building there are very forward, that their Hulls seem to be finished being blacked up to their Gunwales & that their Masts are preparing, that they appear of Large Size – This sir is alarming News indeed if true (which I have no doubt) they will be ready to sail in one Week or Ten Days at most, for by Griffin's acct as well as others the Workmen are extremely busy & assiduous, working till after Dark every Night. These Vessels when on the Lake will effectually Command it, & the Expedition is up for this Year provided that no reinforcement comes to Canada this year.

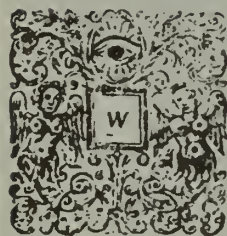
I went with Captain Stewart Yesterday & sounded the Channel Near the Point next below Windmill Point, am of an opinion that a stand may be made there; but should better Judges think the Il au Noix or some Place below that better to intrench & effectually stop the Enemies Vessels coming that up, I shall perfectly agree with them

If the Army are not ready to march within the time abovementioned a Plan of this Kind must be executed, or we lose all (e.i) the Command of the Lake. which is tantamount



By the KING,
A PROCLAMATION,
For suppressing Rebellion and Sedition.

GEORGE R.



WHEREAS many of Our Subjects in divers Parts of Our Colonies and Plantations in *North America*, misled by dangerous and ill-designing Men, and forgetting the Allegiance which they owe to the Power that has protected and sustained them, after various disorderly Acts committed in Disturbance of the Publick Peace, to the Obstruction of lawful Commerce, and to the Oppression of Our loyal Subjects carrying on the same, have at length proceeded to an open and avowed Rebellion, by arraying themselves in hostile Manner to withstand the Execution of the Law, and traitorously preparing, ordering, and levying War against Us. And whereas there is Reason to apprehend that such Rebellion hath been much promoted and encouraged by the traitorous Correspondence, Counsels, and Consort of divers wicked and desperate Persons within this Realm: To the End therefore that none of Our Subjects may neglect or violate their Duty through Ignorance thereof, or through any Doubt of the Protection which the Law will afford to their Loyalty and Zeal; We have thought fit, by and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, to issue this Our Royal Proclamation, hereby declaring that not only all Our Officers Civil and Military are obliged to exert their utmost Endeavours to suppress such Rebellion, and to bring the Traitors to Justice; but that all Our Subjects of this Realm and the Dominions thereunto belonging are bound by Law to be aiding and assisting in the Suppression of such Rebellion, and to disclose and make known all traitorous Conspiracies and Attempts against Us, Our Crown and Dignity; And We do accordingly strictly charge and command all Our Officers as well Civil as Military, and all other Our obedient and loyal Subjects, to use their utmost Endeavours to withstand and suppress such Rebellion, and to disclose and make known all Treasons and traitorous Conspiracies which they shall know to be against Us, Our Crown and Dignity; and for that Purpose, that they transmit to One of Our Principal Secretaries of State, or other proper Officer, due and full Information of all Persons who shall be found carrying on Correspondence with, or in any Manner or Degree aiding or abetting the Persons now in open Arms and Rebellion against Our Government within any of Our Colonies and Plantations in *North America*, in order to bring to condign Punishment the Authors, Perpetrators, and Abettors of such traitorous Designs.

Given at Our Court at *St. James's*, the Twenty-third Day of *August*, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, in the Fifteenth Year of Our Reign.

God save the King.

L O N D O N :

Printed by *Charles Eyre* and *William Strahan*, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1775.

Beg your honrs pardon for writing in a Dictatorial style – should not attempt it were it not Demonstrated on that the Vessels mentioned at St John's with what Armed Batteaus the Enemy can easily Furnish can as easily Sweep this Lake in its present Condition – I therefore humble beseech that some effectual Measure may be immediately entered into to keep the command of the Lake, which I believe may most readily & effectually be done by sending some part of the Army immediately into Canada as I cannot consider the enemy Powerful as yet shall be willing to lead the Way on the shortest Notice. I hear that Two Regiments are coming to Join this Army Via Cohos & Onion River the Barer will inform more particularly concerning this matter I hope to set of[f] tomorrow for Crown pt

I am Sr [&c.]

Jn^o Brown

To Bri Genl Montgomery On board the Sloop Lying at the North of: Il: aumote [Isle au Motte] Wednesday Augt 23d 1775

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ¹

[Extract]

Albany August 23d 1775

We have struggled thro that Variety of Difficulties Which is ever Attendant on Want of Method & Regularity, and Altho we had not Craft to move 200 men when I arrived at Tyonderoga on the 18th July, and had then to repair Mills and send for Carpenters to this Place, It is with Pleasure I can inform you we are Now able to move about 1300 with Twenty Days Provision And that we shall very soon make an attempt on St Johns weak as we are in Artillery, which I suppose will not Exceed six nine pounders. I have two flatt-bottomed Vessels amongst those we have Built they are Sixty Feet long and capable of carrying five twelve Pounders each, but I can unfortunately mount only one, as I have no Carriages.

1. Papers CC, 153, I, NA.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT,
COMMANDING ¹

Augt 1775

Moor'd as before [New York]

Wednesdy 23

On Intelligence we sent our Boat to lie under the Battery to make a Signal in case the Rebels shou'd Attempt to take away the Guns.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE ON SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] August 23, 1775

The Boat built by Mr. John Wharton, called the *Washington*, was this day launched.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 314.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 23, 1775"¹

Major [Philip] Skene has been sent to Hartford, in Connecticut. When he marched off, he behaved with the countenance and spirit of a true British Soldier . . .

Last week was seized near Gloucester, on board a ship from Cork, one Major [Christopher] French, and two officers, with 45 pacakages, containing 7500 suits of clothing for the army in Boston.² The Major and Officers set out yesterday for the camp at Cambridge as prisoners of war. Next week we will have 13 row gallies here, armed and manned. They row twelve and fifteen oars on a side, and carry each a 24 or 32 pounder, some placed in the stern and some in the bow, with swivels, cohorns, &c. round almost every part . . .

Yesterday the men of war lying at Newcastle took a schooner from Hispaniola, with some powder and arms, and the Port penn stage boat. They have confined their Captains, and are sailed out of the river for Boston, as it is supposed.³ Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, is on board a man of war; as is also Governor [Josiah] Martin, of North Carolina.

1. *London Chronicle*, Oct. 17 to Oct. 19, 1775.

2. The ship *Hope*, George Curwin, master.

3. See *Journal of the Nautilus*, Aug. 22, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[Hillsborough] Wednesday August 23d 1775

Resolved, That his honor the President,² Mr. [Cornelius] Harnett, Mr. [Richard] Caswell, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes, Mr. [Abner] Nash, Mr. Willie Jones, and Mr. [Samuel] Young be a Committee of Secrecy, for the purpose of procuring Arms and Ammunition, and to report to this Congress what sums of money will be necessary for that purpose.

1. Saunders, ed., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 173.

2. Samuel Johnston. The Provincial Congress opened its sessions on Aug. 20, 1775, and adjourned, Sept. 10, 1775.

JOURNAL KEPT ON BOARD THE SOUTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Commerce* BY CAPTAIN
JOHN HATTER, SAILING MASTER¹

1775 [Ashley River, Charleston]

Aug. 23. Got under way, and towed up Cumming's Creek; and at 6 A.M. we came to the bluff, where we landed ninety-one barrels of gun powder.

1. "Hatter's Report," Drayton, *American Revolution*. I.

24 Aug.

"REMARKS &CA ONBOARD THE *Somerset*"¹

August 1775 Cape Sambro Light house N W B N 6 or 7 Leagues
Thursday 24 at 5 P M a Sail in the N E Qr ½ past Wore Ship & Brott too with
the Topsail to the Mast at 6 Spoke a Schooner from Nantucket

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/906.

[Exeter] August 24th 1775

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 578.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Thursday, August 24, 1775

The Committee on the Petition of Edward Emerson reported that it be referred to the next sessions. The Report was read and accepted.

1. Mass. Arch.

G. GEFFERINA TO LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES, R.N., HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER
*St. Lawrence*¹

Sir *Preston*, Boston 24 Aug 1775

I am commanded by the Admiral to acquaint you that he is displeased with your sending to Boston the Schooner *Fisher*, because all her papers & the Masters whole proceedings demonstrate that he was upon a trading voyage to procure fresh stock and other necessaries of life for this town, an employment that must be encouraged & assisted by all means in our power; and it is the admirals directions that you give no interruption to vessels fairly & openly on this errand unless you discover them to be trafficking for other commodities than what are for the sustenance of man.

I am &c

G. GEFFERINA

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 488, MassHS Transcript.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Lebanon] Thursday 24th August 1775

A letter received from Messrs. [Titus] Hosmer, [Ezekiel] Williams and [Giles] Hall, about the armed brig fitting at Middletown &c., containing a nomination of sundry persons for officers &c., and proposing that the bearer, [William] Warner (going to Providence) may inlist a gunner there, as they cant obtain one, and also sailors, &c. It is agreed that he may do so, if not disagreeable to Gov. [Nicholas] Cooke, to whom the Gov. is desired to write by said Warner, proposing it to him &c., which was done.

1. Trumbull and Hoadley, eds., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 122.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT, TO NICHOLAS COOKE,
DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND ¹

[Extract]

Lebanon 24th Augt 1775

Mr William Warner, the bearer hereof, hath undertaken to go mate on board the Brigantine *Minerva*, burthen 113 Tons, an Armed Vessel ordered to be fitted out for Defence of our Coasts Capt Giles Hall, to be comander. – This young Gentleman, son to Capt Oliver Ring Warner of Newport, now residing at Middletown, coming on business to Providence and Newport is instructed to procure a good Gunner for the Brig – As he is acquainted with the Seamen in your Colony, thinks he can inlist some number of Sutable men for the service among his Acquaintance there, – applied to me to know whether they may be accepted if he should; have given him for Answer – that I am not sollicitous from whence the men are inlisted – and shall accept them provided it be not disagreeable to you, or the Gentlemen of your Government

Please therefore to be so kind as to promote him in obtaining a suitable person to be Gunner, and let him know your pleasure about inlisting Sea Men within your Colony for this Service – It is hoped this Measure of fitting [out] Armed Vessels for Defence may be a comon Benefit – We are fitting out another of about 42 Tons – Shall be glad to know what your Government hath done in fitting out Armed Vessels. –

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence", *AAS Proceedings*, XXXVI, 269, 270.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Sir,

Oyster Ponds Augt 24th 1775 –

I have sent Mr [Nathaniel] Shaw 200 lb of Powder according to Order. The Committee of Suffolk County have desired me to remain here for a few days till they hear from their Provincial Congress to whom they have sent an express, with their desire that the three Companies raised upon this part of the Island, who have received Orders to march to Ticonderoga, may remain upon this Station – As we know not what use we may have for powder, and as I before informed your honour I lent 200 lb of my own Stock to the Provincial Congress, I think it unsafe under our present situation to return the whole – I expect by next monday to sail for New York – Your honour well knows the suspicious

light in which the New York Congress are viewed by the rest of the Continent, I must herefore beg of your honour to alter that part of your Orders to me, in which you subject me to the direction of that body of men – I have no faith in their honesty in the Cause, I must therefore think it not only a disgrace to me, but a dishonour to my employers that I am subjected to them – You know not Sir half their tricks – Your honour will be good enough to direct to me at New Haven where I expect to stop a day or two & if I am not there to be forwarded to Harlem I am [&c.]

Dav^d Wooster

1. Jonathan Trumbull Papers, ConnSL.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT,
COMMANDING ¹

August 1775

Moor'd as before [New York]

Thursday 24 ¼ after 12 M:N: the Boat made a Signal by Firing a Musquet, several Vollies of small Arms was immediately Fir'd at the Boat by Persons on the Battery & killed one of the Men. we then fir'd the Quarter & Upper Deck Guns, and clear'd Ship, all hands were turnd to Quarters at 2 A M several Musquets were fir'd at the Ship; immediately a broadside was fir'd with Vollies of small Arms by the Marines on the Poop at day light we found that the Cannon that were Mounted on the Battery had been taken away, fired in all 16 24 pdrs. 20 18 pdrs 18 9 pdrs with Round & Grape P M under Arms

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N., TO THE MAYOR AND MAGISTRATES OF
NEW YORK ¹

Asia, August 24, 1775

After the Event of last Night, I think it necessary to inform you, that having *Information* that it was intended by some People in New-York to take away the Guns from the Battery, which, as Stores belonging to the King, it was my Duty to protect. I sent a Boat to lie near the Shore, to watch their Motions; soon after Twelve they began to move the Guns from the Battery, which being observed by the Officer in the Boat, he left his Station to come on board to inform me thereof, but being perceived from the Shore, he was fired upon by a great many Musketry, by which one of the Men in the Boat was *shot dead*. My Duty called upon me to repel an Attack of this Sort, as well as to defend the Guns, which occasioned me to fire upon the Battery. I acquaint you with this that the People of the Town may not imagine it is my Intention to do them any Hurt, which I wish as much as possible to avoid; but if they will persist in behaving in such a Manner as to make their Safety and my Duty incompatible, the Mischiefs that may arise must lie at their Doors, and not mine.

An Answer is desired. I am &c.

G. Vandeput

1. *New York Gazette*, Aug. 28, 1775.

Dr. M. C. Intelligence we sent our Boat to lie under the Battery to make a signal in case the Rebels should attempt to take away the gun; & after 12 M. M. the Boat made a signal by firing a Minquet. several Volley of small Arms was immediately fired at the Boat by Persons on the Battery & killed one of the Men. we then fired the Quarter of Upper Dock gun. and cleared the ship. all hands were hurried to Quarters at 2 M several Minquets were fired at the ship; immediately a broadside was fired with Colling's small Arm by the Marines on the Dock. at day light we found that the Cannons that were mounted on the Battery had been taken away. fired in all 16 lb from 20 shots 10 9 pdr with Round of grape

Light Breeches of fair M. M. under Arms Am filled Powder. the Ship clear for Action. fired the Duke of Cumberland Packet

In PROVINCIAL CONGRESS,

New-York, August 29th, 1775.

WHEREAS the Commander of his Majesty's Ship Asia, under Pretence of protecting the King's Property, did in the dead of the Night of the 23d Instant, most unwarrantably fire on the South Part of this defenceless City, whereby three of his Majesty's Subjects were wounded; the Property of several destroyed; and the Lives of many exposed to the most imminent Danger. And whereas many of the Inhabitants, under Apprehensions that the like hostile Conduct may be in future pursued by the Commander of the said Ship, have been induced to move their Wives, Children, and Property out of this City. And whereas from the present Temper of the People, it is apprehended that the Peace of this City may be interrupted, and the Lives and Property of many exposed, in Case the Officers or Crew belonging to any of his Majesty's Ships, should come with their Boats to this City: In Order therefore to preserve the Peace, Quiet the Minds of the Inhabitants, and prevent the Officers and Men belonging to any of his Majesty's Ships that now are, or hereafter may arrive in this Port, from coming to this City under Pretence of procuring Supplies, this Congress have thought proper to permit, and they do hereby permit (agreeable to the former Directions of this Congress) that Abraham Lott, Esq; Contractor for his Majesty's Navy, do in future supply his Majesty's Ships stationed here with all Necessaries, as well Fresh as Salt, for the Use of the said Ships; that such Supplies be by him sent to the Governor's Island; that they may be taken from thence on board the said Ships; and the Inhabitants of this City and Colony are hereby enjoined from using any Attempts to prevent the said Supplies from being furnished by the said Abraham Lott, or his Agent; or for obtaining Satisfaction for the Injury they have received, as this Congress duly impressed with a Sense thereof, are determined to pursue every prudent and proper Measure for preventing the like Insults in future, and for obtaining Satisfaction and Redress.

A true Copy from the Minutes,

ROBERT BENSON, Secretary.

(Top) HMS Asia log entries, August 24–25, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Jovis, 9 HO. A.M. August 24th, 1775.

Mr. [Isaac] Sears informed the Congress that he had a letter sealed, which he showed, directed to His Worship The Mayor of this city, and said to be from Capt. George Vandeput, of the ship *Asia*.

Ordered, That Mr. Verplanck and Mr. Sears, wait on the Mayor with the said letter and request to know the contents.

Mr. Verplanck returned with the letter directed to the Mayor, and with his leave to take a copy thereof, which was read, and is in the words following, to wit:

[Vandeput's letter of August 24]

Ordered, That Mr. Robert Yates, Mr. Thomas Smith and Mr. Kissam, be a committee to examine witnesses and take affidavits relating to the attack mentioned in Capt. Vandeput's letter, and the attack made by him on this city.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.* I, 118.

CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N., TO THE MAYOR AND PRINCIPAL MAGISTRATES
OF NEW YORK ¹

Gentlemen,

Asia, Aug. 24, 1775.

Whereas a Boat belonging to his Majesty's Ship *Asia* (under my Command) was between 12 and 1 o'Clock this Morning, fired upon by a Number of People, from the Walls of the City; by which firing one Man in the said Boat was *shot dead*. And whereas his Majesty's Cannon mounted upon the Walls, were about that Time, and afterwards taken off from thence; the Perpetrators of which are guilty of the Crimes expressed in the Statutes for such Offences; this is to require at the Hands of the Magistrates, due Satisfaction for these high Misdemeanors; as I must otherwise look upon these Acts, not as Acts of Rioters, but as done by the whole Community. I wrote a Letter to you this Morning, to which I have not received any Answer; I must therefore inform you, that if you do not think proper to send some Answer to this, as soon as may reasonably be expected, I shall look upon your Silence, as a Negative to my Requisition, and shall take such Measures as may seem necessary to me accordingly.

I am, &c.

G. Vandeput

1. *New York Gazette*, Aug. 28, 1775.

CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Extract]

August 24th [1775] I had written thus far, last Night when information was sent me from the Shore that some of the Rebel Troops raised in this Town, intended Stealing the Guns from off the Battery in the Night, as it was too dark to see the Battery, and I knew they would conduct this with so much Silence that we should not be able to hear them, I sent a Boat to be near the Shore. About Twelve we saw lights passing on the Battery very distinctly, and about a Quarter of an hour afterward the Officer in the Boat having plainly dis-

covered what they were about, left his Station to return onboard and thinking himself clear enough of the Battery he fired a Musket to give me the Alarm, this was instantly answered from the Shore by a Volley of Small Arms, and returned by us by two Guns, which stopp'd their Fire; the Boat soon afterwards came onboard with one Man kill'd; we then fired again, and after some time, seeing a great Number of Lights, and they at the same time firing Small Arms at the Ship, we fired a Broadside after which we saw no more Lights. At day light we found they had removed twenty one Guns that were on Carriages on the Saluting Battery. They had (as I have since heard by a Person who has escaped from Shore) so well prepared every thing for this Robbery, that having but a very little way to draw them, 'till they would be under Cover of the Houses, it would have scarcely been possible to have prevented it had it been day Light, As our Guns were pointed as near to the Battery as possible, there is scarce any damage done to the Town, and none of the People hurt; three of the Soldiers I hear are Wounded, but none killed – The People are leaving Town in great Numbers which I suppose most of them will do, who may have it in their power. the Person who gave me the information Yesterday, told me at the same time, that they had long talked of attempting to burn the Ship with Fire Stages, and that now they certainly meant to do it if possible, beyond doubt such an Attempt in a dark night and in a strong Tide is feasible, tho' I do not think they will venture it, if they should it will be for the safety of the Ship to move some distance lower down, where the River is Wider and the Tide not so strong. I wrote this Morning to the Mayor and other Magistrates informing them of the reasons of our Firing and warning them to prevent any further Occasion being given. not having received any Answer I this Evening sent another Letter (the copy of which I herewith enclose) and had one immediately in return from the Mayor, telling me that I shall receive a full answer tomorrow morning to my Letters –

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

NARRATIVE OF THE OCCURRENCES IN NEW YORK ON AUGUST 24, 1775 ¹

The Provincial Congress having resolved that the Cannon should be removed from the Battery, a Number of the Citizens collected for that Purpose last Wednesday Evening; and, Part of the Provincial Artillery, under the Command of Capt. John Lamb, were posted on the Battery, to prevent the Landing of any Party from the *Asia* Man of War, to annoy them while at work. When they Marched down, which was about 11 o'Clock, they observed one of the above Ship's Barges lying at some Distance from the Shore, where she continued upwards of an Hour; then she got under Sail and fired a Musket at the Men that were posted on the Battery. This was immediately returned by a smart Fire of Musketry from the Artillery, and a few of the Independent Light-Infantry belonging to Col. [John] Lasher's Battalion, that were likewise posted there for the above Purpose. – Soon after this the *Asia* fired three Cannon, when our Drums beat to Arms, which alarmed the Inhabitants; when they had assembled she began a heavy and smart Fire, of Nine, Eighteen, and Twenty-four Pounders, and some Grape Shot; succeeded by a Discharge of

Musketry from the Marines: But without doing any other Mischief than damaging the upper Part of several Houses near the Fort, and White-Hall, and wounding three Men. Notwithstanding the Fire from the *Asia*, the Citizens effected their Purpose, and carried off Twenty-one Pieces of Cannon, being all that were mounted on Carriages. – Since this Disturbance the Women and Children have been continually moving out of Town, with their most valuable Effects.

1. *New York Gazette*, Aug. 28, 1775.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW-YORK, AUGUST 24 [1775]”¹

Yesterday our Congress directed that the cannon on the battery should be removed, and last night it was put in execution. The man of war's folks had got intelligence of it and sent the barge to watch; our people had removed 9 or 11 (it is uncertain which) of the cannon without molestation; then a man in the stern of the barge made a false fire – this happened about half past 12 last night. The barge's people then fired ball, upon which ours (who had got together) were ordered to fire, which they did, and continued it till the barge got out of reach. From the cries and shrieks of the people on board it is thought some of them were much wounded. While the small arms were firing the man of war began – she first fired a single ball; then a ball and grape shot, afterwards several guns, (I don't know what they were loaded with) and then a broadside; we had more guns and another broadside before all was over, however our people effected their purpose and got away all the cannon that was mounted, I believe about 20 in number. As we had nothing but small arms we could do no damage to the man of war, and she did very little to us. A house next to Roger Morris's and Black Sam's, at the corner by the Exchange, each had an eighteen pound ball shot into their roofs; some other houses suffered a little, but the principal damage was sustained by some small buildings adjoining to the Battery. No lives were lost, and but very few of our people wounded that I can learn of, and those but slightly. It was very distressing to see women and children moving half naked at midnight.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, Aug. 28, 1775.

“EXTRACT OF ANOTHER LETTER FROM NEW YORK, THURSDAY, (AUGUST 24) [1775] 8 o'clock.”¹

We were suddenly alarmed this morning about half past 12 o'clock, by the *Asia* man of war, cannonading our town, both with grape shot and ball, which continued until 3 o'clock, with short intervals, without doing much damage, except firing into some houses near the fort, and wounding three or four of our men. I learn it happened in the following manner – A party of our light infantry and citizens about 60, commanded by the brave Capt. [Dirck] Hanson, were busy in removing the cannon from the battery, when they were discovered by the people on board who sent their boat on shore armed.

When they came within 20 or 30 yards of the shore they made a signal to the man of war, who immediately fired upon our people, which was answered

by a volley from the barge, without doing execution, as our men were all under cover of the battery, they returned the fire immediately upon the barge, and it is supposed must have killed a good many of them, as they heard a great crying among them, and they directly put off to the ship. Our militia behaved with a good deal of spirit, and turned out extraordinary well. What will be the consequence of this unhappy affair, God only knows.

My dear friend, the scene is now open here, we know what we have to depend upon, every friend to his country ought not to hesitate a moment what step to take. I just learn Cap. [George] Vandeput was not on board this last night, and that they have sent a party of the light horse to take him and our Governour into custody, who are at Long-Island. I am very much fatigued, having been on guard these two nights.²

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, Aug. 28, 1775.

2. This letter provides an interesting view of what arises when rumor takes the place of fact.

SIMEON DEANE TO SILAS DEANE, CONNECTICUT DELEGATE TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

New York, 24th August, 1775.

Last night we had a brush with the *Asia* ship of war, tho' but little damage done, considering the guns fired. Particulars are, that it was last night concerted to remove the cannon and warlike stores from the Battery, of which the ship was previously informed by some of their good Tory friends here; and being [provi]ded with a spring on her cable, and every necessary for engagement, at about long musket shot from the battery in North River. Our people came to the guns about 11 o'clock, with much silence, but found the Ship's boats full of men, lying very silently on their oars at about fifty or sixty yards distant; and on their beginning to move a cannon, they made signal by a fuse in their boat and discharge of a musket or two on us, which was instantly followed by a cannon-ball from the Ship. On which Capt. [John] Lamb ordered Fire, and there was a discharge of forty or fifty muskets into their boats, who made the best of their way on board. The Ship then fired two more cannon, with langrage &c., which wounded one or two of our men.

During this there was a great alarm through the city; the drums beating to arms, &c. &c., and the poor women and children screaming and flying from the city. After a cessation of about fifteen minutes, (during all which time we were drawing away the cannon,) they fired another shot into the Battery; on which we gave three Huzzas, and one imprudent fellow fired a musket, contrary to orders. The Ship gave us almost her whole broadside, being 9, 18, & 24 lb. shot, with two swivel balls accompanying each large shot, as we find in several places where they struck in range on the fence, houses, &c. This redoubled the consternation, and vast numbers of helpless wretches fled into the fields, &c. Others, in coaches, carriages &c. left the town in a hurry. After which, all was tolerably quiet.

This morning we find many shot holes in the houses, and particularly in the fence at the lower Barracks. One 24 lb. ball went through and through the Barracks, and then thro' two bbls of flour on board a vessel in Whitehall Slip,

where it stopped. Early, a company of soldiers are dispatched to Long Island to seize Govr [William] Tryon and Capt. [George] Vandeput, who are both said to be there. The remaining troops are going this afternoon to carry the shot from the lower Battery, which will bring cannonading enough, I expect. The Ship now appears to be very well prepared, and they are continually levelling their guns, as the tide rises or falls. Were it not for the expectation of being a spectator of the fray, I would set out this afternoon; but shall not tarry long here.

The Tories here are pretty silent and look wild. The warm Whigs curse their Provincial Congress, as being infested with [too ma]ny scabby sheep. The Congress are taking depositions concerning last night's work, as 'tis said the people here are charg'd by the Ship with firing first and killing six of their seamen.

We have drawn twenty-one fine Pieces with good carriages, up to the Green, and expect to get the others this afternoon. I am, &c

Simeon Dean[e].

P.S. Capt. Lawrence, of an armed Schooner here, was last night intercepted with letters from Govr Tryon to Gage, it is said, which might have hastened the proceedings here.

1. *Connecticut Historical Society Collections*, II, 296–298.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Jovis 4 to ho. P.M. August 24th, 1775.

The committee appointed to examine Capt. Melancton Lawrence delivered in the exanination of said Lawrence, which was read and filed, and is in the words following, to wit:

The examination of Capt. Melanchton Lawrence before a committee of the Congress on the 24th day of August, 1775.

That he was appointed, on the 24th April last, commander of the schooner *Neptune*, and believes she belongs to the Government. That he left Boston on the 23d of July last with despatches from Gen. [Thomas] Gage to Capt. [George] Vandeput; that he had orders from the general to put himself under the command of one Lieut. Evans, agent of the transports; that when he went on board of Evans' transports, he received from him two letters directed to one [James] Wallace, captain of the *Rose* man of war at Newport; that if Capt. Wallace gave him no particular orders to the contrary he was to cruize south, off Block island, until he heard from the said Evans; that he arrived at Newport in three days, and not finding Wallace, he stood out and fell in with the *King Fisher*, the captain whereof took him under his command and conveyed him into Rhode Island, where he found Capt. Wallace, to whom he delivered his letters; that he then ordered him to follow him and proceed to Block island, where they fell in with a fleet of transports and proceeded with the fleet to Fisher's island; that he was told by one, Col. [Abijah] Willard that he had planned the expedition to take the cattle from the islands; that cattle and sheep were taken off from Gardiner's and Fisher's islands, to wit: 36 head of horned cattle and 1,100 sheep from Fisher's island, as he was informed; from Gardiner's island, between 40 and 50 horned cattle, and

between 1,800 and 2,000 sheep, as the examinant was informed; that the examinant did not assist in taking the cattle and sheep from either of the islands, nor received any of them except four sheep, which were sent aboard for the use of the men who were sent on board of this examinant by Col. Willard. That the examinant understood from Col. Willard, that the man on Gardiner's island was very sulky at first and refused to sell, but that afterwards he insisted that whatever they took away they were to give an account of; that he also understood from Willard, and from other circumstances he has reason to believe, that the man on Fisher's island was willing to sell cattle; that Evans, the agent, gave this examinant orders to take all vessels he might fall in with, and particularly those loaded with salt; that this examinant met with several vessels, particularly a brig loaded with salt, bound to Rhode Island, but did not take or molest them in their voyage: that he could not discover that there were any intentions of the army, or any part of it, to remove from Boston; but on the contrary, there was all the appearance of their intentions to stay, as they were strengthening their fortifications; that no troops had been sent from Boston to Quebec, but that he has understood that one Gamble, an officer, was gone to recruit there; that when this examinant, in May or June last, was on his return from here to Boston near the Hook, a sloop from Staten-Island came down with sheep, hogs and hay; that Capt. McDonald was on board the sloop, who insisted on their being taken on board the schooner; but upon his examinant's refusing to take them on board, they were sent back, though the said McDonald proceeded with him to Boston; and that the said McDonald at Boston informed him he was going to Quebec, and that he was on full pay; that Allen McLean also went passenger with this examinant to Boston, and returned to New-York with the examinant, when he brought Gen. [Frederick] Haldimand to New-York; that the said McLean brought with him a bag of money which he took ashore with him; that from papers which he left on board the examinant discovered from the contents of one of which subscribed by Gen. Gage, authorizing him to enlist a regiment of, he thinks Highlanders, in the Provinces for His Majesty's service; that at Tarpaulin Cove, he received a package of letters from Evans, directed to Governor [William] Tryon; and that Evans told him they were letters he had received from Gen. [James] Robinson [Robertson], which he delivered on board the *Asia* man of war, that this examinant is willing to declare on oath that he has at no time carried any provisions other than his own stores for the use of the vessel from this or any other port to Boston, though he has had opportunities to do it (except seven sheep, which were put on board of him by [James] Montague at the Hook).

Melanchton Lawrence.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 119.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] August 24th, 1775

Resolved, That the Boat built by Carroup & Fullerton, and to be launched this day, be called the *Effingham*.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 314.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL ¹

[Philadelphia] 24 [August, 1775.] Called by the way at the Coffee House, advice being brought that the man-of-war below had seized Captain Mifflin's snow, from——,² detained her, and had confined both captain and mate. He seemed to be insolent, his mild behavior so much before applauded, was now all absorbed in ill-will and rancor; he expressed himself in conversation, it's said, respecting our Committee of Safety far from politeness, but in low, obscene language, and closed it with this speech as a specimen, "That he did not value all their gondolas or Committee of Safety a ——;" so much to show the mild, complaisant gentlemen!

1. Duane, ed., *Marshall's Diary*, 39, 40.

2. Not a snow, but the schooner *Tryal*, James Warden, master. See *Journal of the Nautilus*, Aug. 22, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION ¹

[Richmond] Thursday, August 24, 1775.

An Ordinance appointing a Committee of Safety, for the more effectual carrying into execution the several rules and regulations established by this Convention for the protection of this colony, having been fairly transcribed, was read the third time, and the blanks therein filled up.

Resolved, that the said Ordinance do pass.

And in order to obtain the most authentick intelligence in all matters of importance, and to avoid false alarms, *Be it further ordained*, That the Committee of Safety shall keep up a correspondence with Committees of the several Counties and Corporations, the commanding officers, as well of the regulars as the minute men, and shall have full power to appoint a sufficient number of look-outs and advice boats, at proper stations, and to engage necessary expresses, in different parts of the Country, to be in constant readiness to set out on the shortest notice, and shall issue their warrants, from time to time, to the treasurer, for paying the same.

1. *Va. Conv.*, 22, 45.

25 Aug.

PORTSMOUTH COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO MATTHEW THORNTON, PRESIDENT OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Sir —

Portsmouth Aug 25 1775

We beg leave to inform the Honble Provincial Congress that yesterday his Majesty's Ships *Scarborough* & *Canso* [*Canceaux*] sailed from this Harbour 'tis said for Boston with Governor [John] Wentworth & His Family on board & that we doubt not the Honble Congress will in their Wisdom pay due attention to the request of this Committee signified to them yesterday by Mr. Morrison.

We inclose a Vote of this Committee relative to Shipping off fish & Mr Champney who carries this will inform the Honble Congress fully as to that Matter —

I am by order of the Comee of Safety Sir &c.

H. Wentworth Chairman

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, XIII, 279.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Exeter] August 25th [1775]

Voted, That Capt. Ezekiel Worthen Proceed Immediately to Portsmouth as an Engineer and there Take care, & have, in conjunction with the Committee of safety at Portsmouth, the oversight & Direction of Laying out & Erecting Batterys for the Defence of Piscataqua Harbour, & get the Guns fixt & mounted therein and all other Necessarys for compleating the Batterys.

Voted That Capt Shadrach Hodgson Proceed Imediately to procure Fascines for building Batterys for the Defence of Piscataqua Harbour, and convey the same to Capt. Ezekiel Worthen or the Committee of Safety of Portsmouth as soon as may be.

Voted, That the Committee of Safety at Portsmouth be presented with the thanks of this Congress for their care in forwarding a Plan for the security of Piscataqua Harbour, and their early intelligence of those matters to this Congress – and that they be inform'd that this Congress have given a Number of Directions to several Persons for providing Fascines and other Implements for Erecting Batterys; appointed an Engineer Imediately to attend there; and ordered a number of Barrells of Powder down with many other Directions: and shall proceed to do every thing they possibly can for securing the Harbour – and they be desired to procure persons Imediately to remove the Platform and every other usefull Implement from Fort William & Mary, & Forbid any person or persons from Destroying the buildings there; and further inform the Committee, That it is the opinion of this Congress, That no Fish ought to be Exported out of this Colony.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 579.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 25th [August, 1775]

The *Scarborough* having seized a large Ship coming from the Grenades laden with Sugar, Rum, Iron Ordnance and Shot on board, Captain [Andrew] Barkley brought her round to Boston;

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 190, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

Providence [August 25] 1775

It is voted and resolved, that two row-gallies be forthwith built and equipped at the expense of this colony, for its protection and defence; that they be of a suitable bigness to carry sixty men each; to row with fifteen oars on a side, and to mount one eighteen-pounder in the bow, and a number of swivel guns, and that they be built in such further and particular form, model and construction, as shall be judged most suitable and fitting, by the committee hereafter named, for answering the design and purpose of their building.

And that Ambrose Page, Esq., be the person for the above purpose, and that he be empowered to draw out of the general treasury, a sum not exceeding £300, to enable him to prosecute the building.

1. Bartlett ed., *Records of Rhode Island*, VII, 367.

EXAMINATION OF PRIVATE PETER GRIFFIN¹

Charlotte Coty ss Peter Griffin Soldier in Capt. Babcocks Company and Colonel [James] Easton's Regiment saith that on Saturday the 12th Inst he set out from Crown Point with Lieut Watson on a Scout down Lake Champlain – that on Sunday last [August 20] he fell in with Capt. Remember Baker in the Schooner *Liberty* – that he was chosen by Capt. Baker to go with him to Canada – that on Monday last at Day Light, he, with a little St Francois Indian were landed by Capt Baker a little below Wind-Mill Point on the West Side of the River Sorrel – that from thence they proceeded on the West Side of the River to a Place at St Johns about five Hundred Paces from the Fortification, in the Woods, where they arrived at about 6 O'Clock in the Afternoon – that he saw the Intrenchment to the South Side of the Vessels there building with four or five Cannon mounted fronting to the River – that he saw two Vessels on the Stocks there – that he saw the whole Broadside of one, the Length whereof appeared to be between fifty and sixty feet – that he supposed the Vessel was nearly ready for launching – that she was planked up to the Wale and pitched black – that the other Vessel was chiefly covered with the Vessel last mentioned, so that he could see Nothing more than about four Feet of her Bow, which appeared to him to be planked – that he remained there till next Morning – that to the best of his Judgment, he with the Indian Boy lay that Night about ten Rod from the Centinel of the Regulars placed near the Woods, and at Break of Day they retired towards the Place where they were landed near Wind-mill Point – that on their Return in walking on the Beach towards Wind-mill Point they saw ten Indians coming in a Canoe from the East Side of the River towards them upon which they retired into the Woods, and about four Miles to the South of the Place where they saw the Indians they again came to the Lake, and that they arrived nearly opposite Wind-mill Point at Night, and lodged at the House of one [blank] and the next Morning the Indian's Father brought them on Board the Schooner, and from thence the Deponent came down to Crown Point, on Thursday the 24th Inst – that Cap Baker after leaving the Deponent and the Indian proceeded down the River Sorel in a Boat to the Isle Aux Noix, and did determine to intercept the Scouts of the Regulars there, and was also there to have taken on Board the Deponent and the Indian but that they being pursued by the Indians abovementioned were obliged to proceed farther up the Lake – that the Indian left the Deponent at Wind-mill Bay – that he seemed exceedingly anxious for Capt. Baker's Safety – & that he together with his Father determined to go down the River in a Canoe to the Isle aux Noix to Capt. Baker the next Day – that the French and English Inhabitants along the said Lake are very impatient to have the Army down the Lake – that they declared their Willingness to supply the Army to the utmost with Greens and Sauce – that they are almost starving for want of other Provisions.

The above Examination taken at Tionderoga this 25th August 1775 before the Honble Richard Montgomery Esq. Brigadier Gen by Richard Varick private Secretary to Major Genl [Philip] Schuyler. –

1. President's Letter Book, III, LC.

PETER VANBRUGH LIVINGSTON, PRESIDENT OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF
NEW YORK, TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Sir In Provincial Congress, New York Augst 25th 1775.

We have been honored with your favor of the 21st Inst, and are very sorry to learn the apprehensions you express that the progress of the army may be impeded, if not disappointed, for the want of Tents –

The fact is that all the Tents we had; and all the materials that could be procured, have been made up into Tents & forwarded with part of our own troops; and Genl [Philip] Schuyler has undoubtedly 'ere now disposed of them, as circumstances, or the necessity of the service may require. We can only add on that subject that we shall procure materials for more Tents by every means in our power, and send them up to General Schuyler as soon as possible, but we see no probability of being able to provide at any rate a sufficient number for the N[orthern] Army – If therefore materials can be collected in any due season in your [Government] it will promote the general service to give the necessary orders for that purpose without delay – The precautions about the Pork, which you permitted Mr Van Rensselaer to purchase, may be a wise one, but unless proper orders are lodged at the different landings to which it may be carted, the purpose for which it is wanted may be in a great measure defeated –

Permit us therefore to request the favor of you to give such directions, as you shall judge necessary to prevent such inconveniences and disappointments –

We have the honour to remain [&c.] P V B Livingston President

1. Trumbull Papers, Force Transcript, LC.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT,
COMMANDING ¹

August 1775 Moor'd as before [New York]

Friday 25 A M fill'd Powder, the Ship clear for Action, Arrv'd the *Duke of Cumberland* Packett

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N., TO WHITEHEAD HICKS, MAYOR OF
NEW YORK ¹

Sir, *Asia*, N. River, Aug. 25, 1775

I received a Letter from you last Night, in which you said that you would this Morning send me an explicit Answer to my former Letters. As you certainly have had sufficient Time to make every necessary Enquiry, I am to desire you will send me your Answer upon the Receipt of this.

I am, Sir [&c.]

G. Vandeput.

1. *New York Gazette*, Aug. 28, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Veneris, 9 HO. A.M. August 25th, 1775

Ordered, That the committee appointed to examine Capt. Melancton Lawrence, have power to take such security of him as they shall think proper; and also to take his declaration that he will not enter again into the ministerial service, and discharge him.

The committee appointed yesterday to examine witnesses and take affidavits relating to the attack made on this city by Capt. [George] Vandeput, delivered in affidavits of eleven different persons in this city, proving that the first firing and attack began from Captain Vandeput's boat from the ship *Asia*; which was read.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 120.

WHITEHEAD HICKS, MAYOR OF NEW YORK, TO CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT,
R. N.¹

(Copy)

New York 25th August 1775

Sir In answer to your two Letters of yesterday, relating to the firing upon the Barge belonging to the Ship under your Command, and the taking away the Cannon from the Battery, we are to acquaint you, that it appears from a great Number of Affidavits that the People did not fire from the Battery till they were first fired upon with a Musket from the Barge the Ball from which they Swear passed very near several of them – As to the taking away the Cannon we are to inform you, that the same were taken away by Permission of the Provincial Congress, now sitting in this City, who the People have thought proper to constitute to act for them, in this critical Situation of Publick Affairs. – Our Duty now calls upon us to acquaint you that we are at a loss to account how you could be obliged in duty to fire upon the City in defence of these Guns, in the heart of the Seat of Civil Government, neither can we Account what inducement there could be to fire a Broad Side upon the City at large, half an hour after the Barge had returned to the Ship and the Cannon had been all removed from the Battery – You may rest assured we shall take the necessary Steps in our Power in the Affair agreeable to Law.

We are Sir [&c]

Signed on behalf of ourselves and the Magistrates

Whitehead Hicks

N.B. Another Signature unintelligible

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N., TO MAYOR WHITEHEAD HICKS ¹

Sir,

Asia, N. River, Aug. 25, 1775.

I have just now received yours; in return to which I am to acquaint you that the Musket fired from our Boat, was fired as a Signal towards the Ship, and not at the Battery, as the People in the Boat will likewise make their Affidavits of. You say you are at a Loss to account how my Duty could oblige me to fire upon the City, in defence of those Guns, in the Seat of civil Government; and you add, that you can neither account for my Inducement, half an Hour after the return of the Boats and the Removal of the Cannon, for firing a Broad-

side at the City at large. You surely cannot doubt its being my Duty to defend every Part of the King's Stores, wherever they may be: For this Purpose I fired upon the Battery, as the only Means to prevent the Intentions of the People employed in removing the Guns. For a considerable Time I thought they had desisted from their Purpose, till their huzzaing and their firing from the Walls upon the Ship, convinced me to the contrary; this occasioned the Broadside to be fired, not at the City at large, but as the most effectual Method to prevent their persisting in their Pursuit, which it were impossible I could tell they had effected. I have no more to add, but that I shall persist in doing what I know to be my Duty: In the doing which I shall, if possible, avoid doing Hurt to any one. I am, Sir [&c.]

G. Vandeput

1. *New York Gazette*, Aug. 28, 1775.

CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Extract]

[Postscript, Moord in New York Harbor]

25th [August, 1775] – Capt [James] Montagu is just arrived, as the July Packet may be now daily expected, I shall direct him to lie at the Hook, for the Time you have prescribed, and if the Vessel with Provisions from Jamaica should Sail in the Interval He will be able to perform that Service – I have had no answer as yet from the Mayor, and it is now noon, indeed I know it is not in his power to send any other Answer, except such as will be dictated by the Rioters who are now at the Head not only of the Civil Government, but will not even be contrould by their own Congresses and Committees. – The friends of Government who we are told wanted nothing but some Countenance to induce them to take an Active part, will be obliged to go with the Stream, they are many of them people of the best property in the Town, to secure which a great number have already Signed the Association and the rest will do the same, so that the best that can be said of them is that they are not so bad as they might be, there may be some Exceptions to this but very few. I have just received the enclosed Letter from the Mayor in answer to mine, in which as I expected, they have mistated facts, but I did not think they wou'd have avowed the taking away the Guns, as the Robberies which had been committed before, they always pretended to be ignorant of – You, Sir, are better able to determine what to call this Avowal of theirs, to me it seems that the same Spirit of Rebellion exists in all the Colonies; but if there be any difference it is more violent as you look to the Southward, it is however too great a point for me to determine upon, whenever you, Sir, are not as yet empower'd to give such Orders as I dare say before this time you may have thought Necessary.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 1775

Williamsburg, August 25.

From Norfolk we learn, that lord Dunmore seized last tuesday a fine new ship lately launched, frigate built, and pierced for 22 guns, belonging to Eilbeck, Ross & co. of that place, although the owners represented to him the very great

loss they should sustain thereby, upwards of 700 hhds of tobacco being engaged for her, which they expected daily; but his lordship (as usual) was inexorable, and said he wanted three or four more ships for the king's service! [*The committee of Norfolk have forbid the owners to furnish his lordship with the sails and rigging belonging to the ship.*]¹

He has likewise seized a brig belonging to mr. Daniel Barraud, merchant in Norfolk; *for the same pious intent, no doubt!*

Capt. [John] M'Cartney, of the *Mercury*, notwithstanding the very civil treatment he has met with since his arrival in Virginia, both at York and Norfolk, lately took it into his head to write a very insolent letter to the mayor of Norfolk, concerning town meetings, &c. which had a suitable reply.

1. Brackets and italics supplied by Alexander Purdie.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[Hillsborough] Friday, August 25th 1775.

A Paper purporting to be a Proclamation issued by his Excellency Josiah Martin dated on Board His Majesty's Ship *Cruzier*, at Cape Fear River, the eighth of August instant, directed to the Moderator of the Provincial Convention of Hillsborough, being read;

Resolved, unanimously, That the said Paper is a false Scandalous, Scurrilous, malicious, and sedicious Libel, tending to disunite the good people of this province, and to stir up Tumults and Insurrections, dangerous to the peace of His Majesty's Government, and the safety of the inhabitants, and highly injurious to the Characters of several Gentlemen of acknowledged Virtue and Loyalty; and further that the said paper be burnt by the common Hangman.

1. Saunders, ed., *Records of North Carolina*, IX, 180.

26 Aug.

GEORGE ROME TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE¹

Sir

Newport Rhode Island 26th Augst 1775.

I have put with this a Coop to your address, which contains 6 Geese, 12 Ducks, & 12 Fowls, which please do me the favour to accept. – I sent you a Sheep in June, but by some mistake it was delivered to General [Frederick] Haldiman[d]. – Your late acquisition of Sheep & Bullocks &c. will, I apprehend, render these articles plenty with you at present – Eggs & Butter are scarce articles here now –

A few Days ago a Gentn of your acquaintance, whom I shall not Name, waited upon me & said he had intelligence of much importance to communicate to you from the Rebel Congress – he put it under cover to Majr [William] Sheriff, & I have committed it to a passenger, (a safe hand) who will call upon your Excellency with it, & communicate verbally such materials as were not committed to writing. – I wish them safe to hand, & that they may arrive Seasonably to have the desired effect –

I am your Excellencys [&c.]

G Rome

1. Gage Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Providence, Saturday, August 26, 1775]

Whereas notwithstanding the humble and dutiful petition of the last Congress to the King, and other wise pacific measures taken for obtaining a happy reconciliation between Great Britain and the Colonies; the ministry, lost to every sentiment of justice, liberty and humanity, continue to send troops and ships of war into America, which destroy our trade, plunder and burn our towns, and murder the good people of these colonies, —

It is therefore voted and resolved, that this Colony most ardently wish to see the former friendship, harmony and intercourse, between Great Britain and these Colonies restored, and a happy and lasting connection established between both countries, upon terms of just and equal liberty; and will concur with the other colonies in all proper measures for obtaining those desirable blessings; and as every principle divine and human require us to obey that great and fundamental law of nature, self preservation, until peace shall be restored upon constitutional principles; this colony will most-heartily exert the whole power of government, in conjunction with the other colonies, for carrying on this just and necessary war, and bringing the same to a happy issue. And amongst other measures for obtaining this most desirable purpose, this Assembly is persuaded, that the building and equipping an American fleet, as soon as possible, would greatly and essentially conduce to the preservation of the lives, liberty and property of the good people of these Colonies and therefore instruct their delegates to use their whole influence at the ensuing congress for building at the Continental expenses a fleet of sufficient force, for the protection of these colonies, and for employing them in such manner and places as will most effectually annoy our enemies, and contribute to the common defence of these colonies, and they are also instructed to use all their influence for carrying on the war in the most vigorous manner, until peace, liberty and safety, are restored and secured to these Colonies upon an equitable and permanent basis.

It is voted and resolved, that the monthly wages of Abraham Whipple, captain of the colony sloop, be raised from £ 7.10s. to £ 9, from the time he entered on board said sloop

It is voted and resolved, that Col Samuel Aborn, Col John Low, Richard Smith, Esq; Mr. Benjamin Bosworth, Sylvester Gardner Esq; and Mr. Benjamin Gardner, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to cause all the cattle and sheep, that are fit to be killed, to be forthwith removed and carried off all the islands in this colony, Rhode Island excepted; and Block Island, for which provision hath already been made.

And the said Committee are also empowered to order the two armed vessels belonging to the colony, to assist in removing said cattle and sheep.

1. Bartlett, ed., *Records of Rhode Island*, VII, 368–374.

of the liberty & property of the good people of these colonies
and therefore instruct their delegates to use their whole influence
at the ensuing congress for building at the continental expense
a fleet of sufficient force for the protection of these colonies
and for employing them in such manner & places as will most
effectually annoy our enemies & contribute to the common
defense of these colonies, and they are also instructed to use

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia Aug^t 27. 1775.

I lament with you the Want of a naval Force.
& hope the next Winter will be employ'd in forming one.
When we are no longer fascinated with the Idea of a
speedy Reconciliation, we shall exert ourselves to
some purpose. Till then Things will be done by Halves.

(Sd)

Yours most obedient
Humble Servant

B Franklin

(Top) Extract from a Resolve of the Rhode Island General Assembly, August 26, 1775.

(Bottom) Extracts from a letter, Benjamin Franklin to Silas Deane, August 27, 1775.

CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN, NAVY, VICTUALLING AGENT IN RHODE ISLAND, TO
CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N.¹

Sr Finding by the late Act of Parliament no restriction has been laid upon any import from this Colony to Great Brittain or Ireland – and willing to Discharge our Debts due there, We have been Induced to exert ourSelves in Colecting & shiping a Quantity of Flax seed to Ireland, the Produce of this Colony – many difficultys having attended Our Procuring it arising from the times, & finding some quantity of our seed is Stopped by your orders which we conceive arises from your Suposing it to be the produce of another Colony, We therefore can assure you it has been colected in this colony – & Pray a release of it, & that you will please to grant us every Protection in your Power If we have not your countenance in the Admission of the seed timely, to go through the Process of cleaning before shiped it will be out of our Power to put the Vessell to Sea in the time We can with safety go – the Channel in which We procure it will be also diverted to Providence where they are fitting a Vessel for Ireland – & We wholly Deprived of the Benefit – We therefore rest upon the Protection of Capn [James] Wallace to Facilitate our undertaking.

We are very respectfully Sr. [&c.]

C C

the Boatman Informs his Boat leaks much, any wet coming to the seed wholly ruins it –

Newport August 26 1775

1. Champlin Papers, III, 78, RİHS.

ROBERT C. LIVINGSTON TO ROBERT LIVINGSTON, JR.¹

Dear Sir

New York Augt 26, 1775

Since my last of the 24th I have engaged a passage in a large English built Snow that is bound to London & will sail so soon as to deprive me of the pleasure of Visting you ere she departs. She is the only Vessel here at present or that probably will be bound to Engd ere the 10th Sept that can be recommended and will leave this in about Eight days which prevents me waiting on you, as the opportunities of going up & coming down the River by Water is uncertain & a Journey by land I cannot endure I wrote you that the Man of War had fired 2 or 3 nights ago about 18 or 20 cannon into the Town some loaded with Grape shot & some with 18 lb & 24 lb balls which only injured 2 or 3 men – dislocated a chimney or two – made cavities in some of the Houses and disconcerted the inhabitants, who have been moveing for these two or three days with their effects, as they expected a second edition of Capt [George] Vandeputs politeness who is writing Letters to the Mayor relative to it – it was owing to the people's removing the Cannon from the Battery by the permission of the Provincial Congress, contrary to the edicts of the Continental Congress –

our Sloop is arrived and I believe I shall obtain 7/4 for the wheat – the Flaxseed I must return as it cannot be sold & nothing in this Town is deemed safe – nay altho' your Pig:Iron cannot be destroyed it may perhaps be Safier at the

manner than be involved in the general ruin of the Town which may be the case next winter – I'm in haste your affect son

Rob^t C. Livingston

1. FDRL.

Constitutional Gazette, SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1775

New-York, August 26.

On Wednesday night, a number of people of this city, proceeded (according to a resolve of the Provincial Congress) to take off the cannon that were mounted on the Battery, and were desired to be as silent as possible to prevent being discovered by the *Asia* man of war, when they came there they observed two of the man of war's barges, lying a little distance off, from which it is evident that some infernal villain and enemy to the country, had informed Capt. [George] Vandeput of their design; however they began dragging the cannon with the utmost expedition; when they had got twelve or thirteen away, the barges rowed within musket shot of the Battery, and then fired, which was immediately returned by Capt. [John] Lamb's company of Artillery; the man of war fired three shot which alarmed the city; the drums beat to arms, and the inhabitants mustered as far as possible; this did not deter our people from pursuing their design, but they hauled away the cannon with as much spirit as before; the man of war then began firing very hot with grape shot, eighteen and twenty-four pounders, and volleys from the tops; all this time the people kept dragging the cannon up the Broad-Way, and did not desist till they had got them all ranged before the Liberty-Pole; though the Battery and streets were full of people, happily no lives were lost, their guns were well levelled, and the balls came singing over our people's heads, and on all sides as thick as hail; the fence between the Fort and Battery, and the houses around, are full of shot holes, and a number of balls found in the houses. It occasioned a great consternation among the women and children; numbers of people have moved, and are still moving their effects out of town: We had only two men wounded, which is almost incredible, considering the numbers that were on the Battery at the time of the attack. There was one man killed, and four or five wounded belonging to the boats.

Yesterday arrived here from the Eastward, his Majesty's ship *King-Fisher*, commanded by Capt. [James] Montague.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Sabatti, 9 ho., A.M. August 26, 1775

Captain DeKay, according to a direction from this Congress, attending at the door, was called in and examined, and notes taken of his examination, which are filed. Captain DeKay gave an order in writing to the pilot and mate of the vessel, to bring up his vessel.

Ordered, That Col. [Alexander] McDougall take Captain Charles DeKay into custody, and keep him safely until the further order of this Congress.

Whereas, there is great reason to suspect that vessels with provisions from some parts of this Continent, have been put in the way of some of His Majesty's armed vessels, with design that they might be taken. To prevent any thing of the like kind from occurring,

Resolved, That no vessel depart from this Colony with provisions, unless the permit of this Congress or of their Committee of Safety, be first had for that purpose.

Ordered, That this resolution be published in the newspapers and in handbills.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I.

JOSHUA T. DE ST. CROIX TO CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN ¹

Mr Champlin Sr

New York augst 26 1775

we have bin here in the utmost confushen Last wednesday night by being fired on by the *ashe* ² man of war wich occasion us to Send the Ship ³ of[f] be fore She was loded for fere that the provisun vesels would all bin Stopt as there was Great talk of it She went Down to the naros with 600 and od bushels on bord and John Murrey is Gon down with a sloop lode of 1500 bushels i am going Down to the Ship to Day to Carey Down some Small Stores for Capt [William] Baren i Expect shee will Sail tusday morning i have Drawn on you for fifty pounds in faver of Mott & Bown i have not Got in all the bills yet but shall Send you the perteculer account by the next post i have nothing forder to inform you at present but Conclude with much asteam [&c.]

Joshua T: De St Croix

1. Ship Papers, Ship *Peggy*, NHS.

2. H.M.S. *Asia*.

3. The ship *Peggy*.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1775

Philadelphia, August 26

The *Nautilus* man of war was seen at the Capes, by some vessels which arrived here this day.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, August 26th 1775.

A Letter was this day receiv'd by Captain George Ord of the *Lady Catharine*, from Henry Tucker, Chairman of the Deputies of the several Parishes of Bermuda, enclosing an account for 1182 lbs. [of] Gun Powder, ship'd by him on board said vessell, amounting to £161.14.8, that Currencey, with an account of 8 half bars of Powder on board said Vessell, the property of Capt. John Cowper, of North Carolina, for which last powder, Mr. Tucker has engaged that this Board or Mr. Robert Morris will be accountable for.

The articles for the Good Government of the Officers and Men to be employed on Board the Boats belonging to this Province, this day came under consideration, and after some amendments was read and approved of.

The draught for the Officers' Commissions to be employed on board the armed Boats, was this day read and approved of, and is as follows:

In Committee of Safety

To

We, reposing especial trust and confidence in your patriotism, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity, Do by these presents Constitute and appoint you to be ----- of the Provincial armed Boat called the ----- fitted out for the Protection of the Province of Pennsylvania and the Commerce of the River Delaware, against all Hostile Enterprises, and for the Defence of American Liberty; you are, therefore, to take the said Boat into your Charge and Carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of ----- by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers, Soldiers and Mariners under your Command, to be Obedient to your orders as ----- and you are to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time, as you shall receive from the Assembly or Provincial Convention during their Sessions, or from this or a future Committee of Safety for this Province, or from your Superior Officer, According to the Rules and Discipline of War, pursuant to the trust reposed in you; this Commission to continue in force until revoked by the Assembly or Provincial Convention, or by this or any succeeding Committee of Safety.

By Order of the Committee.

Ordered, That Mr. Bradford print on good paper, one hundred of the Commissions for the Officers to be employed on Board the armed Boats.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 321, 322.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 26 Aug [1775]

Numbers of Vessells are now loading for the Season with new wheat and Chieffly for England T. Ewing a Ship & Brig for England & a Brig for Belfast with Seed & flour, but mostly flour. Sam Carson a Ship Arrived from Derry ² not yet known where she will go. D Stewart two Brigs Wheat & flour for England & Severall have Sailed loaded with New wheat and flour for England. Jerrold Loading Wheat for London – Purviance Expects a Ship Every minute to load wheat for Liverpool

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Ship *Rose*, Joseph Curry, master, from Londonderry, entered in August 16, 1775. Port of Entry Books, 1745–75, MdHS.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1775.

Williamsburg, August 26.

It is said the Earl of Dunmore had seized upon two vessels at Norfolk, viz. a new ship, just launched, burthen about 400 tons, and a brig; but for what purpose is not certainly known. Perhaps they are intended to be fitted up and

manued, in order to assist the men of war and tenders in committing infernal depredations in the rivers, and on the coast.

We are told that the owners of the above-mentioned vessels went and demanded a restitution of them; but his Excellency gave no further satisfaction than by declaring he had orders to procure a number of vessels on charter, for Government service, and assuring the Gentlemen they should be amply paid.

PAUL LOYALL, MAYOR OF NORFOLK, TO CAPTAIN JOHN MACARTNEY, R.N.,
H.M.S. *Mercury*¹

Sir,

Norfolk, August 26, 1775

When I had the pleasure of seeing you last, you mentioned having some letters that had passed between you and me published, which I gave you to understand might be done, since which, as those letters concerned the public, I have thought proper to lay them before the Common Hall of this borough. The Hall has made some resolves on them, a copy of which I am directed to enclose you. My reason for not publishing the letters in this week's paper is, that as they are of a threatening nature, they might perhaps give the people of this colony great uneasiness; to prevent which, I think there cannot be too much precaution used, as I am willing to believe your intentions are only to act within your own sphere, and not to intermeddle with the internal policy of this corporation. If you still think proper to have the letters published, and will enclose them to me, I shall take particular care to have them put into the next gazette. My family joins in best compliments, hoping you have recovered your health. I am, Sir [&c.]

Paul Loyall.

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, Sept. 2, 1775.

DR. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL TO ST. GEORGE TUCKER¹

[Extract]

Norfolk Augt 26th 1775

Dear Sir I wrote you about fourteen days ago. . . . Our Convention are still sitting and we are told very unfix'd in their determinations . . . We have Accts from the Norwerd of the Arrivall of Six more regiments at Boston and its said Lord Dunmore expects a regiment here, which will only serve to keep us in hot water. the whole Country are much incensd against him and I think not without some reason – five hundred of the New ris'd Troops are to be Stationd here or in the Nighbourhood – I find there will be very little done from this place in the export way by the channel of Bermuda –

1. Tucker-Coleman Papers, CW.

27 Aug. (Sunday)

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

(Copy)

Boston August 27th: 1775 –

Sir, General [William] How[e], has been with me this Morning, and again informs me that no Caulkers have ever been near him, and that the Boats will be useless unless they are immediately Caulked, I am therefore to beg the

favor of you to order them as soon as possible, as the Boats may be much wanted –

I am with Regard and Esteem Sir &ca

1. Gage Papers, CL.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO P. V. B. LIVINGSTON, PRESIDENT OF THE
NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Sir,

Oyster Ponds, 27th Aug. 1775

Your favour of the 11th instant, came duly to hand, and I should have sailed for Haerlem, without loss of time, had I not received the following important intelligence from Gen. Washington, viz.

Aug. 23, 1775. – Yesterday I received advice from Boston, that a number of transports have sailed on a second expedition, for fresh provisions: As they may pursue the same course, only advancing further, we think Montaug [Montauk] point, on Long Island, a very probable place of their landing; I have therefore thought best to give you the earliest intelligence; but I do not mean to confine your attention or vigilance to that place; you will please to extend your views as far as the mischief may be probably extended. – Thus far the intelligence. I will further inform you, that the *King's Fisher*, last Wednesday [August 23] went up the Sound, with several small cutters, reconnoitring the north side of the island; and Thursday there followed past this place two top-sail vessels, which I apprehend to be transports, as they fired two signal guns when they went thro' the Race. – I would therefore recommend it to the provincial Congress, to keep a good guard upon Queen's County, as I imagine their design is to get stock from Huntington, Lloyd's Neck, or Flushing; and as we hope to secure all the stock upon this part of the island, you may expect the Boston fleet will proceed farther up Sound.

I am Sir [&c.]

David Wooster.

1. Published in New York City in a handbill on Aug. 29, 1775, and reprinted in *Rivington's New-York Gazetteer*, Aug. 31, 1775.

JOSHUA T. DE ST. CROIX TO CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN ¹

Mr Champlin Sr

New York augst 27 1775

Since my last of the 26 instant the port is shut by the [Provincial] Congres. and nomore provision to go therefore the Ship ² will be oblige to sail with what she has got in wich is between 7 & 8 thousand bushels we are in the grettest Confushen about moving out of town for we Expect we shall not be long at pees i am going to Carey the pilot Down this Morning and sum nasarys for Capt [William] Barren these from your frind [&c.]

Joshua T: De S^t Croix

1. Ship Papers, Ship *Peggy*, NHS.

2. The ship *Peggy*.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TO SILAS DEANE ¹

[Extract]

Philade Augt. 27, 1775.

I congratulate you on the plentiful Year with you as well as with us. It makes me smile to see in the English Papers, the Ignorance of some of their

Political Writers, who fancy we cannot continue the Non Importation Agreement; because if we do it must starve us.

I lament with you the Want of a naval Force. I hope the next Winter will be employ'd in forming one. When we are no longer fascinated with the Idea of a speedy Reconciliation, we shall exert ourselves to some purpose. 'Till then Things will be done by Halves . . .

I shall be curious to hear more Particulars of your new mechanical Genius.² A Mr Bell who I fancy comes from your Province & is now here has propos'd something of the kind to us; but not much attended to.

1. Wharton Sinkler Private Collection, Philadelphia.

2. David Bushnell. See Benjamin Gale's letter to Franklin, Aug. 7, 1775.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TO NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF
RHODE ISLAND¹

Sir,

Philada Augt 27, 1775

I received yours of the 15th Instant, acquainting me with the Loss of the Mail; and proposing a new Route for the Post, to prevent Such Accidents hereafter. In that you will take the Advice & Direction of the principal People in your Government. The Comptroller will Soon be along your Road, for the purpose of establishing all the Stages & Offices as he shall be advis'd & find best. I would request your Care of the enclos'd; and am Sir [&c.]

B. Franklin

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, XXXVI, 271.

ROBERT EDEN, GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND, TO LORD DARTMOUTH¹

My Lord,

Annapolis 27th Augst 1775.

The Communication of Intelligence, of any sort indeed, from America to England, as must be well known by your Lordship being so difficult – I hope I stand in need of no further Apology for not having wrote oftener, than adding that, 'till lately, I have had nothing material from this Province to communicate, which was not in common with what regarded the proceedings of the Continental Congress, and what Your Lordship would have the fullest Information of, in the Common Prints & General Accounts from the Northward. Having now a safe Opportunity, by a Ship of my Brothers, (The *Annapolis*, Captn Hanrick) I shall endeavour to lay before your Lordship two or three late Occurrences in this Province, which have given me great Uneasiness, but which I had no power to prevent, altho' I had Influence enough to prevent the Excesses, at first proposed, being carried into Execution, in some Instances, and more especially with Regard to the Snow *Adventure*, Capin Henzell, belonging to Mr Farness, in London, that came to this City with about seventy indented Servants, and the Captain, it seems, had brought out 200 Dozen of Porter, several Chaldrons of Coal, & some Ct of Cheese, under a Pretence, as alledged, of stopping at Madeira, and disposing of them there; The Committee therefore, thinking such a proceeding a premeditated Infringement of the Association, ordered him to return to England, Servants

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N., TO JOSEPH WANTON, GOVERNOR OF
RHODE ISLAND ¹

(Copy) His Majesty's Ship *Rose* at Newport Rhode Island the 28th Augst 1775.

Sir I am informed the Assembly of your Colony among many extraordinary Treasonable Acts have passed one for Striping the Islands of their Stöck with intent to destroy the Kings Service and his faithful Subjects – If in their Madness and Infatuation they should attempt this, it will become my duty to destroy every Vessel and Craft we can meet upon the Water of which I beg you will inform the Town, that it may appear how far they are concerned in this Matter. I have the honour to be Sir [&c.]

Ja^s Wallace

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

MURRAY SANSOM & Co., AND FREDERICK RHINELANDER TO THE NEW YORK
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen: Being informed that you had come to a Resolution that no Provisions shall be shipd out of this Colony without first obtaining Permission of you, In consequence of which Order we think it our Duty to acquaint you that the Ship *Peggy*, Capt [William] Barron, had on Board before Resolve was made about 7400 Bushels of Wheat, with which she was Cleard and Sail'd as far as Cunny Island which Cargoe we did intend she should have gone to Sea with, (altho' there was about 500 Bushels wanting to Compleat her Load) as we were determined not to Transgress your Orders.

We therefore hope you will Grant us Permission to take on Board the Remainder of her Cargoe and proceed to Falmouth in England as at first intended.

Your Compliance will much oblige your Huml Servts

New York, 28 August, 1775

Murray, Sansom & Co.
Fred^k Rhinelanders

1. *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts, N.Y.*, I, 128.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Die Lunae, August 28th, 1775.

The application of Murray, Sansom, Murray & Co. and of Frederick Rhinelanders to permit the ship *Peggy* and cargo of wheat to sail for Falmouth, in England: The application of Charles McEvers & Co. to permit the ship *Albany* and cargo of wheat to sail for Lisbon. The application of Walter Buchannan & Co. to permit a vessel and cargo for Madeira, and another vessel and cargo for Barcelona, to sail: The application and affidavit of Thomas Arden, Jr. and David Bemus, owner and master of the sloop *Liberty*, to obtain a permit for her to sail; and an application from Robert Bryson, of Bermuda, to Mr. Samuel Verplanck, for six dozen bottled heer, a keg of Albany white peas, half a barrel mess pork, and a good American cheese, were severally read and filed.

A letter from William McAdam, requesting leave for the sloop *Jean*, Captain Bascombe, master, to sail with her cargo for Kingston, in Jamaica, was read.

Resolved, That no bread, flour, beef, or pork, be shipped or laden after the publication hereof (Mr. Walton and Mr. Kissam dissenting) without an express permission from this Congress or their Committee of Safety.

Ordered, That the ship *Peggy* may have leave to sail with her cargo of wheat completed, and that she be subject to such instructions as shall be given by the committee of this Congress to be appointed for that purpose; provided that the present captain or master be not permitted to proceed in the said vessel, and that she sail under such captain or master as shall be approved of by the said committee. Captain Sears dissented.

Ordered, That Charles McEvers & Co. have leave to complete the loading of the ship *Albany*, James Bunyon master, bound to Lisbon, with wheat only, subject to such instructions as shall be given by the committee of this Congress to be appointed for that purpose. Captain Sears dissents.

Ordered, That Walter and Thomas Buchanan & Co. have leave to load the vessel mentioned in their application to Congress of this day, and let her sail to Barcelona with wheat only, subject to such instructions as shall be given by the committee of Congress to be appointed for that purpose.

Ordered, That Walter Buchanan & Co., have leave to load the brigantine *Catharine and Elizabeth*, to Madeira, with wheat, corn and staves, 30 casks rye meal, beeswax, spermaceti candles and spruce; but not with any flour or leather, to sail subject to such instructions as shall be given by the committee of this Congress to be appointed for that purpose.

Ordered, That the sloop *Liberty*, belonging to Thomas Arden and James Arden, David Bewes, master, be permitted to sail subject to like instructions.

Resolved, That Colonel McDougall, Mr. Richard Yates, and Mr. [Governor] Morris, be a committee to report such regulations as they conceive proper for the owners and masters of all vessels sailing out of this port, with any kind of provisions on board.

4 ho. P.M., [August 28, 1775]

A letter from James and Alexander Stewart, requesting permission to ship three thousand bushels of rye; the proceeds of which with what bills they shall ship, they mean to have brought back in articles that will be much wanted.

A letter from Henry Remsen and John Read, requesting permission for the sloop *Charlotte*, under the command of Captain Nathaniel Harriot, to depart for Kingston, in Jamaica, with a cargo of 380 barrels of flour, and thirty barrels of lamp oil. And they mention that they had agreed to purchase a quantity of ship bread in tierces and barrels, and also some lumber.

Ordered, That the sloop *Charlotte* have leave to sail, with her cargo of 330 barrels of flour, and such quantities of lamp oil, ship bread, and lumber, as her owners have engaged or shall think proper to put on board subject to such instructions as shall be given by the committee of this Congress appointed for that purpose.

A letter from V. Pearse Ashfield, bearing date this day, was read, setting forth that he has laden on board the brig *Polly*, Bedford Ashfield master, 4000 bushels of Indian corn, and asking permission for the said brig to complete her lading and to depart for Madeira.

Ordered, That G. W. Beekman, D. Beekman, and C. P. Low, be permitted to ship on board the sloop *Pennsylvania Farmer*, William Newton master, already cleared and bound to the island of St. Croix, a cargo to consist of Indian meal, rye meal, ship bread, staves, headings, hoops and boards, subject however, to the instructions of the committee of this Congress appointed for that purpose.

The committee appointed for that purpose delivered in their report, which was read and filed, and is in the words following :

Your committee do report that they conceive it will be proper that the owners and masters of all vessels sailing out of this port, with any kind of provision, should give security to this Congress that they will proceed to the place for which they shall report such vessels to be destined. and that no security less than an oath of such owners and masters ought to be accepted of. Your committee therefore do propose for vessels bound to Europe, the following oath, to wit :

For the owner.

I, A.B., do promise and declare, that the _____, now bound to _____, and laden with _____, shall proceed directly on her voyage to the said place of her destination, for which purpose I will strictly order the master of the said _____, to sail from the Hook into the latitude of thirty-five degrees north, and keep in, or to the southward of that latitude, until she shall reach the fiftieth degree of west longitude from London, and thence proceed with all despatch to the said port of _____, thereby to avoid a caption by any of His Majesty's vessels of war; the unavoidable accidents of the seas only excepted: So help me God.

For the master.

I, A.B., master of the _____, do swear, promise and declare, that I will proceed with the said _____, now bound, with God's assistance, to _____, immediately, and take every precaution in my power to prevent the said vessel from being taken by any vessel of war in His Majesty's service; and for this purpose I will use my utmost efforts to go so far to the southward, immediately after I shall leave the Hook, as to the thirty-fifth degree of north latitude, and keep to the northward of that latitude until I shall reach the fiftieth degree of west longitude from London, and thence to proceed to the said port of _____, with the utmost despatch in my power, the dangers of the seas only excepted, and as I keep this oath, promise, and declaration, so help me God.

For vessels bound to the west-Indies, the following oath, to wit:

For the owner.

I, A.B., do solemnly and sincerely swear and declare, that I will take every precaution in my power to prevent the _____, now bound from New-York to _____, from falling into the possession of, or being taken by any vessel of war belonging to His Majesty; and for this purpose I will direct _____, the master of the said vessel, to proceed immediately from the Hook to the aforesaid place of his destination, without delay, the danger of the seas only excepted: So help me God.

For the master.

I, A.B., do promise and swear that I, the master of the -----, now bound on a voyage to -----, will immediately proceed with the said vessel to the said place of destination with the utmost despatch in my power, the danger of the seas only excepted, and will take every precaution in my power to prevent the said vessel from being taken by any armed vessels belonging to His Majesty: So help me God.

All which is humbly submitted.

Alexander McDougall
Gouverneur Morris
Richard Yates

Resolved, that the owner or owners, and master of each vessel, for the lading and sailing whereof application has been made to this Congress, and a permit ordered, do respectively take such oath as above directed: that is to say, the masters and owners of such vessels as are bound to the West-Indies, the oath for that purpose directed, and the master and owners of the other vessels the oaths for that purpose above mentioned.

Mr. Morris, Mr. Kissam, and Mr. Thomas Smith, are appointed a committee to report to this Congress the mode to supply the ship *Asia* with provisions, that will be least inconvenient to the inhabitants of this city.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 123–124.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW YORK TO A GENTLEMAN IN PHILADELPHIA,
DATED AUGUST 28, 1775¹

Thursday night [August 24] we expected a repetition of Wednesday night's scene; women, children and goods were removed. All quiet at night. Friday, more expectations and more removals, the Governor returned from the country, and went in person and took in writing a particular account of the damage done; our Congress offered him a guard, but he said he had such confidence in the affections of his fellow citizens, that he thought any further security unnecessary, and declined the offer. He called the council that afternoon. Saturday, people continued to remove. The Governor desired a conference with our Congress, Committee and Military Officers; it was granted, he made a speech to them, told them it made his heart bleed to meet on the road so many people moving from the city with their effects, that they had all the power of the city in their hands, begged they would use it prudently, that violent measures would only widen the breach, and cause the destruction of the city; we had got the cannon in our own power, and desired we would move them no farther, that if troops should come from Boston, we would hear of it time enough to move them, but declared upon his honour he knew of none coming, &c. &c.

Notwithstanding the cannonading, we got off 21 good 18-Pounders, with carriages, empty cartridges, rammers, sponges, &c. &c. The Capt. of the man of war behaved like a rascal in attacking the Town in the dead of the night, when it was unprepared for defence; however the people collected on the battery,

and behaved well; we killed, according to [George] *Vandeput's* own account, one of his men in the barge, he killed none of ours, – only wounded three; one lost the calf of his leg, the other two were slightly wounded, notwithstanding grape-shot, swivel shot, 18 and 24 pounders were fired. I am told people are moving their goods this morning.

1. *Pennsylvania Journal*, Aug. 30, 1775.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL ¹

[Philadelphia] 28 [August, 1775]. After dinner went with William Rush to Kensington, to see the gondola launched.

1. Duane, ed., *Marshall's Diary*, 41.

THOMAS JOHNSON, JR. TO JOSHUA JOHNSON ¹

[Extract]

Annapo[li]s 28 August 1775.

Dear Josa The *Annapolis* ² is not so forward as I reported – Doctr Stewart his Son Geo. Diggs, Alex Hanson & I am told several others go in her the Doctor goes Home to take possession in full of his family Estate which it is said is several hundred a Year I wrote you a long Ltr by the Doctor which Care his Son I expect will deliver you I make no Doubt but that you will treat them all with Complaisance Geo. Digges claims more he is a warm American & a good Man – Nothing of great Consequence lately from the Camp nor any Certainty of late Measures in England some times we learn of 6 some times of 8 additional Regiments being ordered then again that they are stopped you may safely judge of the anxious State I am in, if I am now reduced to the Necessity of relinquishing all Hope of a happy Reunion with the Mother Country I shall then have but one Object I think I can then arm my Mind so as to meet Adversity like a Man or continue sober in prosperity it is an extream difficult Task to have a [illegible] to defend our Liberties it has as yet been attempted but if a Civil War must rage we must to draw the whole of the Continent into Action go on a more extensive plan – If the war is persued you must settle your Affairs as soon as you can & you had better leave England you can have little or no Communication with your friends here as Correspondence with me is or soon will be treasonable I would have you be very careful of what you write you can do your Country no Service by a Freedom of writing to your Friends & therefore avoid it I would have you determine if necessary & servicable to send a [illegible] but to do an Act which could efect nothing but your own Destruction would be folly & Madness . . .

I cannot but repeat to you that Geo Digges is worthy of every attention you can show Him you may be free with him

1. Jenifer Papers, MdHS.

2. The ship *Annapolis*, William Marshall, master, 380 tons, and six men, arrived at Annapolis June 17, 1775; her clearance is not given, as the Port of Entry Books, 1745–1775, MdHS., contain no clearances after July 19, 1775. For further references to the *Annapolis* and her passengers, see the *Maryland Gazette*, Sept. 21, 1775 and the *Pennsylvania Packet*, Sept. 25, 1775.

CAPTAIN JOHN MACARTNEY, R.N., TO PAUL LOYALL, MAYOR OF NORFOLK ¹

Sir, His Majesty's Ship *Mercury* at Norfolk, August 28, 1775

I am much obliged to you for your polite favour, which inclosed some strictures by the corporation of Norfolk, upon my first letter to you. I must beg you will be pleased to publish the letters which have passed between us in the Virginia News-papers, that a candid public may judge of the motives which actuate my conduct.

When I first wrote to you, it was not my intention to draw on a political discussion with the inhabitants of Norfolk, or to ascertain in particular cases the limits of the civil or military jurisdiction. I was desirous that his Majesty's subjects should know I ardently wished the peace of this Province, to promote which, I shall strictly adhere to the tenor of my first letter.

I beg my respectful compliments to all your family, and have the honour to remain, Sir, [&c.]

John Macartney.

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, Sept. 2, 1775.

JOSIAH MARTIN, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

Cruizer Sloop of War in Cape Fear River No. Carolina, August 28th 1775

Since my Dispatch No. 38, giving your Lordship an Account of the outrages committed at Fort Johnston, I received by a tender from New York on the 22nd of last month, the Duplicate of your Lordship's Dispatch No. 16, which from its date must have accompanied your letter by the May mail, that were violated by the Committee of Charles Town, as I have formerly represented, and was there with held, as appears evidently I think from the allusion to its contents in the Publication of the Committee at Wilmington in the enclosed paper of the 28th day of last month. I learn that the June mail is since arrived at Charles Town, and I flatter myself that the Postmaster pursuant to my advice has lodged your Lordship's dispatches to me in security on Board his Majesty's Ship stationed there, but I have been deterred from sending for them as yet, by a strange and almost incredible rumour that there are armed Vessels fitted out by the people of Charles Town, constantly cruising off that place, of force superior to any Vessel we can get to send for them . . .

The probability of the *Cruizer* being compelled to leave her station here for want of provisions, or to cruize for smugglers or pirates, and the certainty in that case of the artillery belonging to Fort Johnston falling into the hands of the mob, determined me some weeks ago to spike the Guns, and to burn the carriages that were rotten and utterly unserviceable . . .

The sundry depositions of Masters of Ships enclosed will show your Lordship the motives & designs of the Rabble who did the Violence at Fort Johnston, that of Mr [William] Todd refers also to a remarkable extravagance of Mr Dry's which is still better confirmed to me by the Testimony of a Gentleman of consideration who was present at the time.

I have the honor to be &c.

Jo. Martin

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 230-237.

29 Aug.

THEODORE ATKINSON, SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO CAPTAIN BRODERICK HARTWELL, H.M.S. *Boyne*, BOSTON ¹

Sir

Portsmo Augt 29 1775

Sometime since the Ship *Elizabeth* arrived in this Harbour from Granada & was stopped by Capt [Andrew] Barclay Commander of His Majestys Ship the *Scarborough* for having as he said ordnance stores on board & was from hence by him carried to Boston.² The freight to a Considerable amount she had on board belonged to different merchants in this Town. The want of having certain necessary Papers Completed prevented the owners of the freight or their Agent from taking Passage in one of those Ships to Boston. They have thot it absolutely necessary to take this only method of Sending Mr Hale the Bearer of this to Boston to personate the owners. I therefore think it reasonable that he be permitted to pass to Boston & desire the Boat & hands be suffered to return —

With much respect &c.

Theod^r Atkinson, Pres.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, XVIII, 674, 675; *ibid.*, VII, 390.

2. The ship *Elizabeth*, Thomas Ashburn, master, from Grenada for Piscataqua, was acquitted in the Admiralty Court, but her cargo was bought for the British Army. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

THEODORE ATKINSON, SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF NEW HAMPSHIRE TO GOVERNOR JOHN WENTWORTH ¹

Sir—

Portsmouth, August 29, 1775

I received your Excellency's favour of the 23d, and shall use every method to preserve the peace of town and land. I hope it will not be long ere your return.

I have been importuned to write a few lines to the Commander of His Majesty's guard ship at Nantasket, in favor of Mr. Hale appearing for the freighter of the Ship *Elizabeth*. A copy you have enclosed.

Your Excellency's [&c.]

Theodore Atkinson

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 390.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 29 [August, 1775]

Until this period the Admiral had waited with great impatience expecting a large Reinforcement from England with Orders for his future proceedings; and hoping that an Accomodation might yet take place between Great Britain and her Colonies, he had confined his operations to intercepting the Supplies coming to the Rebels, and guarding those intended for the Kings Army, endeavouring by these means, and by granting Convoys to the Transports and other Vessels employed in America in procuring Provisions Fuel and Forage, to relieve the Wants, and thereby assist the Garrison at Boston much as he could. But finding the Provinces were seriously preparing for War, although he was still without the least Instruction for his Guidance respecting the Rebellion he

determined to wait no longer, but to annoy the Enemy in the best manner his small & crippled force would permit; by making Descents within the New England Governments and destroying the Towns on the Sea Coast and the Shipping in the Harbours and Rivers. Indeed the Admiral had been ever desirous of sending forth such Expeditions, and had often by secret confidential Letters home, as well as abroad in discourse with the General, expressed his Wishes for 800 or 1000 Marines or Soldiers to go with the Shipping on these Enterprizes, as the sole means of destroying the Vessels and Craft of the Rebels in narrow Rivers or Creaks, where Ships of Force could not approach from the Shoalness of the Water, and where small Vessels could be destroyed by men posted in Bushes and under Cover of Walls or Banks along the Shore, unless protected by a Body of Soldiers to march upon the Margins of such Rivers and Creeks.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 190, 191, MassHS Transcript.

JAMES COWAN TO CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN, NAVY VICTUALLING AGENT IN RHODE ISLAND ¹

Sir. Please to supply His Majesty's Ship *Glasgow*, with Six cask of Salt-Pork, and send the same on board as soon as possible. I am Sir [&c.]

James Cowan.

Glasgow 29th Augt 1775.

1. Champlin Papers, III, 81, RIHS.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Martis, 9 HO. A.M. August 29th, 1775.

Whereas, the commander of His Majesty's ship *Asia*, under pretence of protecting the King's property, did in the dead of the night of the 23d inst. most unwarrantably fire on the south part of this defenceless city, whereby three of His Majesty's subjects were wounded, the property of several destroyed and the lives of many exposed to the most imminent danger:

And Whereas, many of the inhabitants under apprehensions that the like hostile conduct may be in future pursued by the commander of the said ship, have been induced to move their wives, children and property out of this city:

And Whereas, from the present temper of the people it is apprehended that the peace of this city may be interrupted and that the lives and property of many be exposed, in case the officers or crew belonging to any of His Majesty's ships should come with their boats to this city:

In order therefore to preserve the peace, quiet the minds of the inhabitants and prevent the officers and men belonging to any of His Majesty's ships that now are, or hereafter may arrive in this port from coming to this city under pretence of procuring supplies, this Congress have thought proper to permit, and they do hereby permit, (agreeable to the former directions of this Congress) that Abraham Lott, Esq. contractor for His Majesty's navy, do in future supply His Majesty's ships stationed here, with all necessaries, as well fresh as salt, for

the use of the said ships; that such supplies be by him sent to the Governor's Island; that they may be taken from thence on board the said ships.

And the inhabitants of this city and Colony are hereby enjoined from using any attempt to prevent the said supplies from being furnished by the said Abraham Lott, or his agent; or for obtaining satisfaction for the injury they have received; as this Congress, duly impressed with a sense thereof, are determined to pursue every prudent and proper measure for preventing the like insults in future; and for obtaining satisfaction and redress.

Ordered, That the above resolution be published in hand bills.

Ordered, That Abraham De Peyster, of the city of New-York, merchant, have a permit to load the sloop *Charity* with two hundred bushels of corn, four tons of ship bread, two hogsheads of dried cod, and ten dozen of poultry, to the island of Antigua, or some other of the West India islands, subject to such orders, and on having such affidavits made and filed, as have in such cases been directed by this Congress.

Ordered, That Messrs. Verplanck and Richard Yates be a committee to consider of the applications of the owners of vessels which are going to sea, and to give them permits agreeable to the resolutions and orders of this Congress.

4 ho.P.M., August 29th, 1775.

Messrs. Thomas Arden and James Arden, having filed such affidavits taken by them with respect to the sloop *Liberty* and her cargo, and is directed by this Congress to be taken by the owners of vessels intended for the West Indies, and having also sent into Congress and filed such affidavit of David Bewes, the master of the said sloop *Liberty*, as in such cases are directed by this Congress to be taken by the master of every such vessel.

Ordered, That the sloop *Liberty*, with her cargo now on board, be permitted to sail.

Mr. William Malcolm having delivered in such affidavit taken by him, with respect to the sloop *Thistle*, and her cargo, as is directed by this Congress to be taken by the owners of vessels intended for the West Indies; and also delivered in such affidavit of Roger Haddock, the master of the said sloop *Thistle*, as is in such cases directed by this Congress to be taken by the master of every such vessel, which affidavits are filed.

Ordered, That the sloop *Thistle* with her cargo now on board, be permitted to sail.

Messrs. Henry Remsen and John Read of the city of New-York, merchants, having delivered in such affidavits taken by them with respect to the sloop *Charlotte*, and her cargo, as is directed by this Congress to be taken by the owners of vessels intended for the West Indies; and also delivered in such affidavit of Nathaniel Harriot, the master of the said sloop *Charlotte*, as in such cases is directed by this Congress to be taken by the masters of every such vessel, which affidavits are filed:

Ordered, That the sloop *Charlotte*, with her cargo now on board, be permitted to sail.

AFFIDAVITS OF THE OWNER AND MASTER OF THE SLOOP *Thistle* ¹

I, William Malcom do solemnly and sincerely Swear & declare that I will take every precaution in my power to prevent the Sloop *Thistle* now bound from New York to Saint Eustatia from falling Into the possession of or being taken by any vessel of war Belonging to his Majesty. And for this purpose that I will direct Roger Haddock the Master of the said Vessel to proceed immediately from the Hook to the aforesaid place of Destination without Delay (the Danger of the seas only Excepted) So help me God –

W^m Malcom

Sworn this 29th day of Augt. 1775 Before
B Blagge

I, Roger Haddock do promise & Swear that I the Master of the Sloop *Thistle* now bound on a Voyage from New York to Saint Eustatia will immediately proceed with the said Vessel to the said place of destination with the Utmost Dispatch in my power (the Danger of the Seas only excepted) & will take every precaution in my power to prevent the said Vessel from being taken by any Armed Vessel belonging to his Majesty, so help Me God –

Roger Haddock

Sworn this 29th day of Augt – 1775
B Blagge

[Endorsed] Augt 29th 1775 Sloop *Thistle* Affidavits of Owner & Master permit delivered

1. Marine Miscellany, LC.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, August 29th 1775

This Board thought proper to reconsider the articles for the Government of the Officers and Men to be employed on board the provincial Armed Boats, and after some amendments, were order'd to be transcribed for the press, which was accordingly done, and are as follows:

In Committee of Safety for Pennsylvania

Whereas, the Arbitrary and Tyrannical proceedings of the British Ministry, in attempting to reduce the good people of America into a state of abject Slavery and Vassalage, has met with a righteous and Spirited Opposition from the twelve united Colonies by their Delegates in Congress, who, by their resolves of the 18th July, recommended to the Assemblies or Conventions, or in their recess, to the Committees of Safety, to devise and provide such means for defending the Lives, Liberties, and properties of their respective inhabitants, as may to them seem best in compliance with this recommendation; and in consequence of the powers vested in this Committee by Resolve of the Assembly of this Province, they have caused Sundry Boats to be Built and Armed for the defence of the Same, and the protection of its commerce; which Boats being now ready for service, it remains that they be immediately

manned and equipped: *Therefore*, to encourage good and brave Men to engage freely in this Glorious Service, the following Rules and Regulations are offered by the said Committee:

1st. All Officers and Privates in or belonging to the Provincial Armed Boats, being guilty of profane Oaths, Cursing Drunkenness or other scandalous actions, shall incur such punishment as the nature and degree of the offence shall deserve, at the discretion of a Court Martial.

2nd. Any Officer or Private who shall strike the Commander-in-Chief or other his Superior Officer, or draw, or offer to draw, or lift up any weapon, or use any violence against him, or shall behave himself with contempt or disrespect to him, them, or either of them, being in the execution of their office, shall be punished according to the nature of his offence, at the discretion of a Court Martial.

3rd. If any Person in or belonging to the Provincial Armed Boats shall raise, or endeavour to raise a Mutiny, on any pretence whatever, or shall disobey any lawful commands of his Superior Officer, he shall, on conviction thereof, suffer such punishment as shall be order'd by a Court Martial.

4th. Any Officer or Private who shall, without leave of his Commanding Officer, absent himself from the Boat or other Vessel to which he belongs, or from any detachment of the same, or shall advise or persuade any other officer or private so to do, shall be punished, at the discretion of a Court Martial.

5th. Every Person in the Fleet who shall Mutiny in time of action, or who through Cowardice, disaffection, or negligence, shall at such time withdraw or keep back, or not come into the fight or Engagement, or shall not do his utmost to take or destroy any Ship, Boat or other Vessel which it shall be his duty to engage, or shall endeavour to persuade or deter others from doing their duty at such a time, shall suffer Death.

6th. Every Person who shall desert to the Enemy, or shall intice others so to do, shall suffer Death, or such other punishment as the circumstances of the offence shall deserve, and a Court Martial think fit.

7th. Any Officer or Private who shall be convicted of holding any correspondence with, or giving intelligence to the Enemy, either directly or indirectly, shall suffer Death, or such punishment as shall be order'd by a Court Martial.

8th. Every Officer or Private who shall be convicted of having designedly or carelessly wasted or imbezzled the ammunition, arms, stores, or provisions belonging to any of the Boats, shall suffer such punishment as a Court Martial shall think proper for the offence.

9th. Whatever Officer shall be found Drunk on Guard or under Arms, shall be Cashier'd; and any Private so offending, shall be punish'd at the discretion of a Court Martial.

10th. No Person in or belonging to the Provincial Armed Boats shall sleep upon his watch, or forsake his post, on pain of such punishment as a Court Martial shall think fit to impose.

11th. Any Officer or Private who shall, by discharging Fire Arms, beating of Drums, or by any other means, occasion false alarms, shall suffer such punishment as shall be inflicted by a Court Martial.

12th. All Officers, of what condition soever, shall have power to part and quell all quarrels, affrays and disorders, though the persons concern'd should belong to another Boat, and order Officers to be arrested and Non-Commission'd Officers or Privates to be confined 'till their proper Superior Officers shall be acquainted therewith, & whoever shall refuse to obey such Officer, though of an Inferior rank, or shall draw his sword, or lift up any weapon against him, shall be punished, at the discretion of a Court Martial.

13th. If any inferior Officer or Private shall think himself wronged by the Commander of the Boat to which he belongs, he may apply to the Commander-in-Chief, who is to redress his grievance.

14th. All Officers shall take Rank from the date of their Commissions.

15th. All Ships and other Vessells, and their Cargoes, ammunition, Artillery, cloathing, or other articles taken from the enemy, shall be disposed of or distributed as the Provincial Assembly shall hereafter think proper.

16th. If any Officer or Private shall commit any crime deserving punishment, he shall by his commanding officer be put under arrest if an officer or a non-commission'd Officer or Private, be put in confinement, till he shall be tried by a Court Martial or discharg'd by proper authority.

17th. If any Officer under arrest shall leave his confinement before he is set at liberty by the Officer who confined him, or by proper authority, he shall be cashier'd.

18th. Any Officer who shall presume to discharge any Prisoner committed to his charge without proper authority for so doing, or shall suffer any prisoner to escape, shall be punished at the discretion of a Court Martial.

19th. If any commission'd Officer shall be convicted before a Court Martial of behaving in a scandalous, infamous, cruel, oppressive or fraudulent manner, unbecoming the character of an Officer, he shall be dismiss'd from the Service.

20th. All Crimes not Capital, and all disorders and neglect which officers and privates may be guilty of, to the prejudice of good order and Military discipline, though not mention'd in these articles, shall be taken notice of by a Court Martial, and punished, according to the nature of the Offence.

21st. No Persons to be sentenced by a Court Martial to suffer Death, except in the cases expressly mention'd in the foregoing articles, nor shall any other punishment be inflicted, at the discretion of a court martial, other than degrading, cashiering, drumming out of the fleet, whipping, not exceeding thirty-nine Lashes, fine, not exceeding two months' pay, and imprisonment, not exceeding one month.

22nd. The Commanding Officer of each Boat shall appoint some suitable person to receive all such fines as may arise within the same, for breach of any of these articles, which fines shall be accounted for to the assembly or Committee of Safety, and by them be appropriated for the relief of the maimed

and disabled in the Service, and the Support of the widows and families of such as may be killed.

23rd. No Court Martial for the trial of offences under the degree of Capital, shall consist of less than five Officers, except in cases where that number cannot be conveniently assembled, when three may be sufficient, who are to determine on the sentence by a Majority of Voices, and in all trials for Capital Offences, the Court Martial shall be composed of thirteen Officers, and the sentence be determined by at least two-thirds.

24th. All Persons belonging to the Boats, called as Witnesses in any case before a Court Martial, who shall refuse to attend and give evidence, shall be punished, at the discretion of a Court Martial.

25th. All Members of a Court Martial are to behave with Calmness, decency and impartiality, and in giving their Votes, are to begin with the youngest or lowest in Commission, and all Officers of different Boats are to rank in Court Martial according to their Commissions.

26th. All Members sitting in a Court Martial shall be sworn or affirmed by the president of said Court, which president shall himself be sworn or affirmed by the Officer next in Rank in said Court, the Oath or affirmation to be administer'd previous to their proceeding to the trial of any offender, in form, viz: "You, A.B., Swear or affirm that you will well and truly try, and impartially determine the cause of the Prisoner now to be tried, according to the Rules framed for the Regulation of the Pennsylvania Fleet, (if an oath add) so help you God."

27th. The President of the Court Martial shall administer the following Oath or affirmation to all persons called to give evidence: "You Swear or affirm that the evidence you shall give in the cause now trying, shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth (if an oath add,) so help you God."

28th. No Person shall suffer Death, agreeable to the Sentence of a Court Martial (except in the cases mention'd in the 5th Article), till the Sentence is confirmed by the assembly, or in their recess by the Committee of Safety.

29th. The Commander of each Boat shall, in the beginning of every month, make a faithful return to the Committee of Safety, of the Men employed in his Boat, to be sign'd by himself, and upon being convicted of having made a false return, shall be discharged from the service, and if he neglect to make a return within the month, shall be fined, at the discretion of said Committee.

30th. No Officer or Private shall be tried a second time for the same offence.

We, the underwritten, having seen and distinctly heard the foregoing Articles read, and fully understanding the contents thereof, Do freely and Voluntarily subject ourselves to all and every of the Rules, Regulations, and restrictions therein contained. In Witness whereof, we hereunto subscribe our names.

The Officers and Privates to enter into the Service for two Months, and until they shall be discharged by the Assembly or Committee of Safety.

Resolved, That William Bradford print on good paper, one hundred of the Articles for the Government of the Officers and Men to be employed on board the Armed Boats.

Ordered, That Mr. [Robert] Towers provide twenty rounds of Cartridges for each of the following Field Pieces, Viz't: two Twelve Pounders and four Six Pounders, And Forty Rounds of Cartridges for the Great Guns of the Armed Boats, consisting of 1 32 Pounder, 4 24 Pounders, and 8 18 Pounders. And that he procure a Mold for the Fire Locks for the use of the Boats, and cast 1200 Ball, and fill the Cartridges for the same.

Resolved, That Robert Pomeroy be appointed a Lieutenant on Board one of the Armed Boats.

Resolved, That Mr. Nathan Boyce be appointed Lieutenant on board the Armed Boat, the *Washington*, commanded by Capt. [Henry] Dougherty.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 323–327.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Hillsborough] Tuesday August 29th 1775

Whereas some doubts may arise respecting the Construction of the fourth Article of the Continental Association relating to Exportation.

Resolved that it is the opinion of this Congress that no ship or vessel shall clear out, or take on Board any part of their Cargoes after the tenth day of September 1775; but that vessels actually laden or their Cargoes on Board lighters, and cleared out before that day, may sail at any time after.

1. Saunders, *Records of North Carolina*, X, 183.

30 Aug.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S BRIG *Gaspee*, LIEUT. WILLIAM HUNTER, COMMANDING ¹

August 1775

Moored at Montreal

Wedy 30th

this day I went with two Petty Officers and some Seamen to St Johns to assist in launching & rigging some Vessels building there for the defence of the Province ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/381.

2. This is the final entry in the journal. Lieutenant Hunter was taken prisoner in November when St. Johns fell to the American army, and the *Gaspee* was taken, when Montreal was subdued shortly afterwards.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO PETER VANBRUGH LIVINGSTON, PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Sir,

Camp at Cambridge Augt 30th 1775.

Your Favour of the 21st Inst. is duely received inclosing Mr Carter's Information of the Capture of the *Charming Sally*, which from the Circumstances attending it, was undoubtedly collusive. I have received Advice that another

Vessel belonging to one White at Marblehead whose ostensible Voyage was to Casco Bay, was carried in soon after. Such Instances of Avarice at such a Time, & in such a Cause, call for a severe Scrutiny & exemplary Punishment.

Mr Livingston & some other Gentlemen from your City brought us the acceptable News of the Arrival of a large Quantity of Powder, and five Hundred Stand of Arms.

Our Situation is such as requires your immediate assistance and Supply in that Article. We have lately taken Possession of a Hill considerably advanced towards the Enemy, but our Poverty prevents our availing ourselves of any Advantage of [the] Situation. I must therefore most earnestly entreat that Measures may be taken to forward to this Camp in the most safe & expeditious Manner whatever Ammunition can be spared from the immediate & necessary Defence of the Province. The Value of whatever may be sent in Consequence of this Request, will be paid by order from hence when delivered, or negotiated with the Honble Continental Congress at Philada as may be agreed with the Proprietors. I only request that no Time may be lost thro' any such difficulties, as our Situation is so critical, & the Exigencies so great. The Mode of Conveyance I must leave with the Provincial Congress or the Committee of the City. I doubt not they will take every Precaution to make it safe & expeditious.

I have the Honour to be Sir, [&c.]

G^o Washington

1. President's Letter Book, III, LC.

DEPUTY GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Providence, August 30th, 1775

Sir, — Your Excellency's letter of the 14th instant is now before me, the contents of which I have duly considered. When it came to hand our small sloop-of-war was out upon the cruise which I mentioned to your Excellency in a former letter. She hath since returned. The sending her on the enterprize you proposed could not be done, without some new and further powers from the General Assembly, which sat here last week; and the nature of the business was such that I did not think proper to lay it before so large a body. I therefore procured a committee to be appointed to transact all business necessary for the common safety during the recess of the Assembly, particularly with power to employ the two vessels of war in such service as they should think necessary. The committee is summoned to meet this day before whom I shall lay your letter. At present the undertaking appears to me to be extremely difficult. The most suitable man we have for the purpose is confined to his bed by sickness. We have accounts that a number of vessels have sailed lately from Boston, which we apprehend, are designed to plunder the stock along the coast. The General Assembly have ordered it all to be removed from all the islands in this Colony excepting Rhode Island. We have now about three hundred men employed in that business . . .

The vessel our small sloop was cruising for, arrived on the 28th inst., at Norwich. She hath brought powder, lead, flints and small arms. What quantity of each I am not certain. They are now on their way by land.

1. *Collections Rhode Island Historical Society*, VI, 119, 120.

MINUTES OF THE RHODE ISLAND COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly to act during the Recess of the Assembly held in the Council Chamber in Providence on Wednesday August 30, 1775

Voted that The Honbly Nicho. [Cooke] ² Ambrose Page Esqr. & Col. John Mathewson be a Commtee To Appoint Persons Vessel and all things Necessary in Order to proceed a Voige any place where they Shall See proper there to procure a Quantity of Gun Powder &c. ³

1. RIHS.

2. The last name of the Deputy Governor was omitted by the Secretary.

3. On Aug. 31, the Committee promised an extra month's wages to the seamen provided the voyage was successful, *ibid*.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] Aug 30 [1775].

The Rh[ode] Isld Assembly which Sat at providence last Week were in profound Secrecy Gov. [Samuel] Ward one of the Continental Congress laid before the Assembly Some of the schemes Conceiving in the Congress. There are in America Secret negociations for foreign powers, which have actually offered their Assistance to the Americans, & if the Congress' petition to the king shall prove without effect, & the Parl[imen]t determine to prosecute the War, The Congress have in Contemplation, by Public proclamation to throw open their Trade to all the World; perhaps also to Enter into alliance with the States of Holland.

About IV this Afternoon many p'rsons heard the firing of Canon at a Distance as they were standing on the Wharfs in this Town. One Man said he Counted above fifty. – It is a heavy thick Air, has rained much to day, & not yet Cleared off, but Seems in the midst of an August Storm. – Two of our Men o' War went out yesterday for Block Island.

1. Stiles, III, 75, LC.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*" ¹

August 1775

At Single Anchor in Stonington Harbor

Wedsday 30

at 8 A M Anchd in Stoningtown Harbour 3 fm soft bottom the T[end]rs Chac'd a Sloop alongside the Wharfs, was fir'd at which they return'd, at 10 we brought our broadside to bear upon the Town and fir'd, the Tenders brought 3 Schooners off from the Wharfs.

P M the Rebels continued firing upon the Tenders, which we returned by firing into the Town, at 7 weigh'd and drop't further out into the Road, as did the Tenders

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

MAJOR OLIVER SMITH TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N. ¹

(Copy)

[Stonington] Wednesday [August 30, 1775] 11 o'Clock forenoon.

Sir The Tenders under your Command before your coming in fired on the Town without any Provocation from the people here when some few Musket shot was unadvertently returned. – We know not how Matters are represented to

you, we mean to do what is consistent with Honour. We are a Naked Town with a distress'd parcel of Women and Children and at the Mercy of the Fire from the Ships and Tenders. – We trust were matters rightly represented you would desist firing on the Town. –

I am Sir [&c.]

Oliver Smith Major

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N., TO MAJOR OLIVER SMITH ¹

(Copy)

His Majesty's Ship *Rose* Stonington August 30th 1775.

Sir, I have received your Letter of this Instant wherein you say the Tenders under my Command have fired upon the Town without any provocation. *Firing upon them and Wounding them* is not this provocation they are all ready to make Oath you fired upon them first. I saw firing from several parts of the Town, they even foolishly fired upon the King's Ship. The Honor of Great Britain, Duty to my King and Country, make the part I have taken absolutely Necessary, it depends upon yourselves whether it is to continue; God grant you a due Sense of your duty to your King and Country and Obedience to the Laws which cannot fail to make you Great and happy. I am Sir [&c.]

Ja^s Wallace

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

MAJOR OLIVER SMITH TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N. ¹

(Copy)

Stonington Long Point Augst 30th 1775 3 oClock afternoon

Sir I have received yours in Answer to mine And do assure you upon Honour that what I wrote you relative to your Tenders firing on us was a real fact to be attested by all the people then present. – When they came in the Second Time and you had got into the Harbour the Tenders came and took two Vessels within Pistol shot of the Wharf. My positive Orders were not to fire, We expected the Men from the Tenders would not persist in carrying the Vessels away which they promised they would not. – The Lives of your Men then on board the Schooner were all at our Mercy – We had assurance from the people then aboard that no Guns should be fired by them, but your three Tenders, Nevertheless begun a fire of all their Guns on us, when some returned the fire. You say it depends on our pleasure whether the fire should Cease. We have not begun any fire, We are free and determined to desist from firing and we now assure you that no person shall be permitted to fire at the Kings Ship or any of His peaceable Subjects. We profess ourselves Dutiful Subjects to His Majesty George the third, and are disposed as such, to keep the peace and prevent any disturbance, and shall take no part but such as His Majesty's Subjects have a right to do in their own defence. I am Sir [&c.]

Oliver Smith, Major

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N., TO MAJOR OLIVER SMITH ¹

(Copy)

'Tis impossible I can give you any other answer to yours, while you are firing upon our people, but that of returning it.

Yours

Ja^s Wallace*Rose* Augt 30th 1775

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

COLONEL GURDON SALTONSTALL TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Honble Sir

N London Augt 30 1775 4 Cl P M

This morning early Cannon was fired in the Eastern board, & have continued firing ever since & in the last hour about 40 – we had advice a 12 C, that a Man of Warr & a tender, were firing on the Houses at the Point in Stonington without provocation unless it was that the people had brot Stock (a small mater) from Block Island, off Block Island yesterday appeared a number of Transport Ships, & scarce any Stock taken from thence, probably they there have with the men sent from the main upwards of 300 men, at Stonington probably 200, Majr [Jonathan] Latimere marcht one half his men abt 200, for Stonington by my advice instantly on the Express from Stoningtons Arrival – his Troops have not half a pound Powder P man – (not a Cask of Powder in this Town) – for the Troops march't, or those remaining in Town –

Your Honors wisdom will furnish the Article of Powder, or we can make not the least defence even with Firelocks –

The Cannon constantly firing –

This waits on Your Honr by express from [&c.]

G Saltonstall

1. Jonathan Trumbull Papers, ConnSL.

“EXTRACT OF A PRIVATE LETTER FROM NEW YORK, DATED WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 30, 1775” ¹

By the ship which brings you this you will undoubtedly receive the New York Papers containing an account of the conduct of Captain [George] Vandeput of the *Asia*, in firing on the town to stop the removal of the cannon which were carrying away by order of the Congress. These papers speak very disrespectfully of the Captain's behaviour; but I assure you they have treated him with great injustice, by charging him with cruelty and inhumanity. The case was briefly and truly this: Captain Vandeput being informed that the people were removing his Majesty's cannon, &c. he fired only a few shots into the town by way of intimidation, and to stop their progress, notwithstanding which they actually moved off near twenty pieces, and but three of the provincials were slightly wounded; whereas had [he] been cruel or inhuman, he could soon have destroyed the whole town. A thief might with as much truth and reason complain of the cruelty of a man who should knock him down for robbing him! But the Patriots here constantly misrepresent every thing; and our news-papers contain very little to be depended on.

1. *London Chronicle*, Oct. 19 to Oct. 21, 1775.

The Light Horse 11th Regt put a Male and 18 Men on board a Sloop for a
sloop armed with six twelve pounders and came to
Sail at noon on the 29th again in the p.m. left bottom.

At Singlinton 11th Regt put a Male and 18 Men on board a Sloop for a
sloop armed with six twelve pounders and came to
Sail at noon on the 29th again in the p.m. left bottom.
in Stirling Harbour 3 p.m. off bottom the
sloop along side the ship, was fired at which they
returned, at 10 we brought our broadside to bear upon the
sloop and fired, the French brought 2 Schooners off from the
sloop.

How Col^d

New L. & Co. Aug: 31. 1775¹⁶⁵⁰
J. M. & Co.

It is uncertain who gave the first fire at Stirlington;
it is most probable to me that on the Cutters taking
possession in the Road, & going to take men at the Wharf,
high winds arose & they perishing I imagine our Troops
fired & killed the above men, as the Cutters immediately
after probably fired on the Town, & then pushed out to
the shore without much kill, & on giving her an Acc^t.
of the matter they all stood in to the harbor, & cannonaded
violently, about 12 O'Clock a Flag went on board to know
why he fired on them, & his reply was that he was on
the defensive, for they had fired on his Boat, & showed
the dead man then on his Deck, & the wounded man;
as soon as the Flag retired Cannonading was renewed.

This is the best Acc^t I can collect, but it is hard
to come at the truth therefore must conjecture as
circumstances appear. Flag Latimer asked
me when he called back his Troops. & advised him to do

don't expect they'll come in to this port, however
shall keep a good look out. Y^r Most Obed^t Serv^t
J. Trumbull

J. Saltonstall

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, August 20th [1775].

Ordered that Colo. [George] Ross & Capt. [Robert] White be a Committee to draw up instructions for the Commander-in-Chief & the Captains of the Boats, a list of warrant Officers, and pay of Officers and Men.

Order'd that Mr. [George] Gray & Mr. [Owen] Biddle draw up a plan for supplying and regulating the provisions for Boats' Crews.

Resolved, That the Boat built by Mr. [Joseph] Marsh be called the *Warren*.

Resolved, That Captain Allen Moore be removed from the Armed Boat called the *Experiment*, to the command of the Boat called the *Effingham*.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 327, 328.

JOSEPH P. WHITALL TO DANIEL MAJOR ¹

[Extract]

(Copy original P Seymour ²)

Philad 30 Aug. 1775

Have now to advise you of sending my Brother out in a small Schooner with load Bread & flour saild 19 Inst for Hispaniola in order to engage a peceil ³ of Powder also to sell his goods there if in demand, if not to proceed for Kingston & there to put the Cargo under your care provided you have complyd with my request 8 ult. – Also to take on board a quany of Coffee & if Powder to be had at Kingston he will take it on board there – in which case he need not stop at Hispan for any on his return here – I observe what you say in regard to Coffee & shoud my Brother not be with you when this gets to hand request you will imediatey purchase 50 or 60,000 wt on our Joint accounts but expect you will be able to get it for 42/6 to 45/ a price that I am offerd any Quany. at from Kingston in letter receiv'd P Seymour & expect it will be still lower by the time this is with you – great care must be taken to have it green and of a good Qualy. clear of Black Grains – my Brother is to go down for Kingston whether he sells his cargo in Hispaniola or not in order to take in Coffee some Hides & some Beet sugar in order to conceal the Powder also to get a regular clearance for Philad – but if any accident has befell him on his passage out I shale [have] time for your answer to this before the winter Setts in, and I may send a small vessel on purpose for this coffee and as much Powder as tis Possible to procure, & if no oppoy to advise me in time you can charter a small vessel for the purpose – but it must be a good one & well found to come on this coast in the winter of this shall write you more fully in the course of a few days, it will be well worth our attention to endeavor to get in Some Powder here after 10th Sepr the Nt proceeds of which the Congress will permit me to export, in our produce to which market I please ⁴ – my expectations of getting Powder in here, which will enable me to ship of our produce after 10th Sepr at abot half the price is bears at present has in some measure made me decline speculating in the manner I advised you I shoud, but refer you to my Brother for the principal reason – shoud the Jam. Packet arrive in time shall put a valuable cargo on board her & if not till after the 10th shall retain her here till I have some Powder come to hand which expect will be latter end of Septemr unless I am disappointed – and if I am shall retain her here untill the arrival of

my Brother which expect you will endeavor to make Soon as Possible – , . . . refer you to my Brother & the inclosed papers for Political News . . .

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, 66c. This letter was found on board the brig *Sea Nymph*, Joseph Bradford, master, which sailed from Philadelphia, Sept. 9, 1775, and was taken off Cape Henry, Sept. 20, by H.M.S. *Mercury*.
2. The sloop *Peggy*, S. Seymour, master, which cleared the Delaware Capes just prior to Aug. 30, 1775, *Pennsylvania Journal*, Aug. 30, 1775.
3. Probably the British copyist's mistake for "parcel."
4. The italicized phrases and sentences were underscored by Vice Admiral Graves when he forwarded the letters to England.

HOLT's *Virginia Gazette*, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1775¹

Norfolk, August 30.

L - - d D - - - - e has lately made seizure of another vessel belonging to Messrs. Eilbeck, Ross, and Co. for Government service forsooth!

The goods imported in the snow *Unicorn*, seized by L - - d D - - - - e as above mentioned, were ordered by the Norfolk borough Committee to be immediately returned in the same vessel; but his L - - p has taken care to prevent that, by laying his hands upon the goods and converting them to his own use, and the vessel, we hear, is intended for St. Augustine to bring the remainder of the 14th regiment.

It appearing that the above goods imported in the *Unicorn*, had been countermanded by Messrs. Eilbeck, Ross, and Co. the Committee of this borough have acquitted them in this instance of any breach of the [Continental] Association.

A correspondent writes, that a certain sloop of war, not 100 miles distant, was lately kept in constant alarm a whole night, with her matches burning, tompkins out, guns loaded with grape shot, and all hands at their quarters, till day light discovered the formidable enemy which had caused such terrible apprehensions, to be only one of the neighbors with his negroes catching Mullets! A certain governor, it is said, was in all haste sent for, to assist with his sage advice at the council of war that was held on this mighty occasion.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN FRANCIS GRANT GORDON, R.N.¹

By James Young Esq. Vice Adml of the Red & Commr in Chief of His Majts Ships and Vessels employ'd & to be employ'd at Barbadoes & the Leeward Islands, & in the Seas adjacent.

You are hereby required and directed to compleat the Provisions Wood & Water on board His Majts Ship *Argo*, under your command to three Months & then sail to the Island of Barbadoes, & immediately on your arrival there deliver His Excellency Govr [Edward] Hay, the Letter you will receive herewith, directed to him and procure his Answer thereto, you are likewise during your stay at Barbadoes to apply again to William Senhouse Esq. Surveyor General of the Customs &c. for the Deputations you was directed to procure from him by my order to you dated the 17th June last, and after having perform'd these Services at Barbadoes, You are to proceed without loss of time to the Island Grenada, & there deliver to the Honble William Young Esqr Commander in Chief for the time being of all His Majts Southern Caribbee Islands &c. the dispatch you will herewith receive, directed to Him, & having receiv'd his Answer thereto, You are to

return and join me in English Harbour, You are during the Hurricane Season to take care not to be at Sea at the time of the full and change of the Moon, but spend that time in such manner as will be most consistent with the Service you are employ'd on, & the safety of the Ship you command, you are at all times to be careful & diligent in executing the Orders you receive from me dated the 17th June last, and in addition thereto, are hereby further required and directed, to search all Vessels whatever which you may fall in with, that are bound to North America & are strictly to examine whether they have on board any Gunpowder or other Warlike Stores, and should you find any such on board, you are to seize said Vessels and bring them forthwith to me to this Place, for which this shall be your Order.

Given under my hand on board the *Portland* in English harbour Antigua 30th Augt 1775.

Jam^s Young

By command of the Admiral

Geo. Lawford

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, LC Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY ¹

Sir *Portland*, English Harbour Antigua the 30th August 1775.

In Consequence of the Letter I received from Captain [Henry] Bryne of the *Pomona* Sloop the 4th Instant, (of which I inclosed a Copy to you for their Lordships perusal the 8th August p the *Creighton*, Ross, Master) setting forth that a Schooner from North America arrived at the Island St Croix, in Order to procure Gunpowder for America; and offering any Money for the Purchase &c, and it having since then, been intimated to me by Persons of Credit, at this place; that it is believed The North American Traders, do procure Gunpowder and other Warlike Stores from this Island, and His Majesty's other Charibbee Islands; in these Seas; as well as from the French, Dutch, and Danish Islands. I have therefore in Order to prevent, (as far as I may be able) a practice so pernicious and dangerous to His Majesty's Service, wrote to the Governors, and the Commanders in Chief of all His Majesty's Charibbee Islands, to acquaint them with my having received the above information; and requested, they may immediately direct proclamations to be issued through the different Islands in their respective Governments, to forbid the Exportation of Gunpowder and other Warlike Stores, from any of them, for the Space of Six Months: and I have given Orders to the Captains of his Majesty's Ships *Lynx*, *Pomona*, and *Argo*; to search all Vessels they may fall in with; that are bound to America; and strictly to examine whether they have on board any Gunpowder; or other Warlike Stores; and should they find any such, to Seize said Vessels and bring them forthwith to me; I have inclosed herewith to you Copies of said Letters and Orders; and request you will lay them before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty; who, I hope will approve of what I have done in this matter; and as their' Lordships will perceive by the Letter to me from the President and Council of the Island Antigua, Dated St John's Council Chamber, 17th August, 1775, they express "that they have no

Authority to prevent the Buying and Selling of Merchandize which has been fairly imported" under which description I presume they wish to include Gunpowder and Warlike Stores; and to insinuate that private Adventurers are at full liberty to sell them as Merchandize to whomsoever they please; and some of them, I am told likewise assert in Common discourse, they have no knowledge, but from report; and rumour; that the People of North America are in open Rebellion; as the same has not been Officially Notified to them by Authority; from these Circumstances it is probable, Should His Majesty's Ships under my Command; in pursuance of the Orders I have given them, make Seizure of any American Vessels having Gunpowder &c. on board; The people concerned therein will litigate and question the legality of the Seizures, and thereby put me to much trouble and Expence; however as it appeared to me of the utmost Consequence to the good of His Majesty's Service, that a practice so dishonourable and dangerous, should be immediately prevented, and put a Stop to; so I have no doubt but their Lordships will fully approve of the Orders I have issued; and give me all necessary Support to carry them into Execution.

During the present Hurricane Season I can do little more with the Kings Ships under my Command, then sending them to the Southern Islands for Security; but their Lordships may depend so soon as the danger of Hurricanes is over I will employ them in such manner as shall appear to me most useful to the Kings Service.

I much further desire you will represent to their Lordships that should the present troubles in America Continue, the Squadron under my Command is much too small to prevent effectually the Exportation of Ammunition &c. from all the Islands within the Extent of my Command, and that I intreat their Lordships will be pleased to encrease the Number of Ships to be employed in these Seas, and thereby enable me, to put an End to a Trade so very pernicious, and prevent for the future any Supply of Ammunition and Warlike Stores to be carried from hence to the North Americans: during their present unnatural Hostilities. I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young.

1. PRO, Admiralty, 1/309. A copy containing the first paragraph only is in PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, 52b.

CRAISTER GREATHEAD, GOVERNOR OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS, TO VICE
ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG ¹

(A Copy)

St Christophers, 30th Augt 1775.

Sir I received your Letter of the 22d August on Sunday last about four of the clock in the afternoon, and them immediately appointed a meeting of His Majts Council to be held in the town of Basseterre yesterday but there being no more than five members in this island, and one of them is so bad a state of health as to render him unable to attend, which I knew nothing of till the time appointed for the meeting, there was not a Board to consider the subject matter of your letter, and to give me their opinion thereupon, and being in doubt whether such a proclamation as you desire me to issue would be compulsory upon the people of this Government or not, as the Act of Parliament on which

Portland, English Harbour Antigua the
30.th August 1775.

Sir

[In consequence of the Letter I received from Captain Bryne, of the Pomona Schooner the 1.st Instant (of which I inclosed a copy to you for their Lordships perusal the 8.th August of the Breighton, Post. Master) setting forth that a Schooner from North America, arrived at the Island St. Croix, in Order to procure Gun powder for America; and offering any Money for the Purchase &c, and it having since then, been intimated to me by Persons of Credit, at this place, that it is believed, the North American Traders, do procure Gunpowder and other Warlike Stores from this Island, and His Majesty's other Charibbee Islands; in these Seas; as well as from the French, Dutch, and Danish Islands. I have therefore in

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,
James Young.

h Stephens Esq^r.

His Majesty's Order in Council is grounded does not extend to this part of His Dominions, I have thought proper to write to Mr Warner, His Majts Attorney General by this opportunity, to desire his opinion and advice upon this important Business, and hope when I receive his answer I shall be able to get a meeting of the Council here and will then determine what to do. In the mean time you may be assured I shall be very ready to exert every means in my power to prevent the North Americans from being supplied in any degree with Ammunition and Warlike Stores at this time when they are in open Rebellion.

I am very glad to find from a Letter I have received from Mr President [Thomas] Jarvis dated the 24th Instant that there is no reason to believe they have had any supplies of Gun Powder from the island of Antigua and from the strictest enquiry I have been able to make there is none at any of the Forts in this Island, excepting a very little belonging to private Traders in the Magazines of Fort Londonderry near the town of Basseterre from whence no more than two Kegs of 25lb each have issued for a considerable time past and they went out at different Periods of time, I am with great regard Sir [&c.]

Craister Greathead

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/122, LC Transcript.

31 Aug.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO CLARK & NIGHTINGALE, PROVIDENCE MERCHANTS ¹
Gentlemen.

Camp at Cambridge August 31st 1775

Hearing that you have imported a Quantity of Powder, Lead & Small Arms I have dispatched Capt [George] Bayler, one of my Aids de Camp to treat with you for it, Whatever Engagement he shall enter into for the whole or any part I will confirm: And upon Delivery to him your Bills drawn on me for the Price agreed on shall be honor'd on the Shortest Notice – I am Gent: [&c.]

G W

1. Washington Papers, LC.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1775

Cambridge, August 31.

By a gentleman from Dartmouth, we hear, that a few Days ago, as one of the piratical Ships of war (supposed to be the *King-Fisher*) was passing up the Sound between Martha's-Vineyard and the Elizabeth Islands, she stood into Tarpaulin Coye, close in with one of the Houses, where stood a Number of People without Arms, looking at the Ship; when, without the least Provocation they received a Number of Cannon Balls, and some Musket Shot, from the Ship, which obliged them to secure themselves: After which the Ship fired a Number of Cannon Shot at the House some, of which went through the same, and damaged several Barrels of Provisions &c. but happily no Person was killed or wounded. – As

soon as this was done, the ship immediately put about and came to Anchor at a considerable Distance from the Shore, and soon after made off.¹

1. The assailant was the *Kingsfisher*; see her log for Aug. 18, 1775.

DEPUTY GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO SAMUEL WARD AND STEPHEN HOPKINS ¹

[Extract]

Providence August 31st 1775.

By a Letter from General Washington I was informed that Three Ships of War and Nine Transports sailed from Boston the beginning of last Week. As the Enemy are greatly distressed for Want of fresh Provisions I conjectured this Fleet was designed to supply them; and immediately sent a Quantity of Powder, Ball and Flints to Block Island to enable the Inhabitants to defend themselves, and gave them Assurances of further Aid if necessary. As this Fleet hath not been heard of on our Coasts I imagine they are destined to the Eastward.

Two of the Men of War were cruizing yesterday and the Day before, in the River and came up above Kinnimicut Point. As it is possible for them to come near enough to fire upon the Town our Attention is strongly turned to the erecting of a Fortification below. I some Time since forwarded to you a Plan of the River, and should be glad to know the Sentiments of the Congress upon that Subject, and whether the erecting a Fortification, which would not be a very expensive one will be considered as a Continental Expence, as I am clearly of Opinion it ought to be.

1. Nicholas Cooke Papers, RIHS.

MINUTES OF THE RHODE ISLAND COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

At a Come. to act during the Recess of the Genl. Assembly

Augt. 31. 1775 D.Mowry Cle[r]k

whereas it appears To this Committee that George Rome of Newport Merchant hath made it his Constant practice for Some Time Past To Supply the Enemies of this Country with Provisions and other supplies whereby they are Better Enabled To prosecute their hostile Intentions against us –

It is Therefore *Resolved* by this Committee that Daniel Mowry Junr. Esqr. Take with him such Aid and Assistance as he shall Think fit and With them Repair To Newport aforesd. And Take the Said George Rome into Custody, and Bring Before this Committee for further Direction and his honour the Deputy Governor is hereby Requested [to] Issue his Warrant for Effecting the purpose aforesd –

1. RIHS.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] Aug 31. [1775]

The firing yesterday was by the infamous Cap [James] Wallace of the *Rose* man o' war who chased a Vessel into Stonington Harbour where are about 60 or 70 Dwelling Houses, somewhat Compact. The inhuman Wretch fired on this defencelss place.

1. Stiles, III, 76, LC.

COLONEL GURDON SALTONSTALL TO SILAS DEANE ¹

[Extract]

Dear Sir, —

New London, August 31st, 1775. A.M. 6 o'clock.

Yesterday morning we heard cannon firing and supposed it was off Block Island, and at eleven o'clock had advice that one man of war and three cutters were cannonading the houses at the Point in Stonington. The firing continued until 5 o'clock P.M. with very little cessation. We hear their landing was opposed by 200 men. Immediately on the first advice, I advised Major [Jonathan] Lat[t]imer to march one half the troops under his command, about two hundred men, to Stonington, which he instantly did. Have no advice from thence, since three o'clock yesterday. It's said a number of the enemy were killed on attempting to land, by the musketry; the Americans had no cannon.

The best account I can collect of the beginning of the dispute is, that the cutters chased into that harbor a boat from Block Island, with stock on board, and finding a vessel with molasses on board near the wharf, aground, immediately on her floating brought her to sale and sent her off; and then, stretched backwards and forwards and gave the town their broadsides; then stretched out, met a man of war, (supposed Wallace,) and they all came into the harbor; Wallace came to, with a spring on his cable, and fired on the town incessantly until 5 o'clock.

We are told a large number of transports were yesterday cruising round Block Island. There is very little stock taken off from thence. They have been re-inforced with 200 men, and one hundred Islanders makes them probably able to prevent losing their stock, which they were endeavouring to take off. General [David] Wooster is no doubt encamped with four hundred men at Montauge [Montauk]. The stock from Gardner's and Plumb Island, undoubtedly removed. Advice from Gen. Washington to Gov. Trumbull, that transports were bound this way, was dispatched Friday last [August 25] to Gen. Wooster, then at Southold, and to the Committee of Suffolk County, from the Committee in this town.

Six o'clock P.M. About ten o'clock this day, the *Rose*, Capt. [James] Wallace, and three cutters with a few vessels taken at Stonington, left that harbor and anchored at west side Fisher's Island, where they probably are. The houses at Stonington much shattered; none actually demolished. It is extremely difficult to know the first of the action, notwithstanding what's within written; rather think the case was thus; the cutters chased in two Rhode Island packet boats, that carried 250 troops of theirs from Stonington harbor, and landed them on Block Island the night before, although the *Rose* and the cutters endeavoured to prevent it: when the cutters were in port, they took two molasses vessels, and went to the wharf to take other vessels, and it's most probable were forbid, which no doubt produced high threats; and on their persisting, it's my opinion the Americans fired on them and did execution, as they immediately pushed off, and firing some cannon went out of harbor; met the *Rose*, probably east of Watch Hill, and she then stood in for the harbour with the cutters, and having got in, fired as within mentioned.

A flag went on board the *Rose* at noon, to know why she fired on the houses; Capt. Wallace said he did so in his defence, and shewed the officer four of his

dead men, and one that had his arm much torn; (these men, I apprehend, were killed in the first action, and the cutter going out with them to the *Rose*, brought Capt. Wallace in to the demolition of the town.)

Immediately after the flag returned, the cannonading was renewed with the utmost vigor, until 5 o'clock. We had two men only wounded; one of them, as said, mortally. By sunset last evening there were at the place of action, eight hundred, some say one thousand men, well armed.

The inhabitants are moving their effects out of this town, with the greatest diligence. We shall not want men for our defence; but as we have no stock of powder, cannot use the cannon we have, but shall do the best we can with musketry, if attacked.

Last week arrived Capt. Nichols of Providence, with about seven tons powder, that he landed at Norwich, and it went by land, about Friday, to Providence. . . .

Your most obedient

G. Saltonstall.

1. *Connecticut Historical Society Collections*, II, 298–300.

COLONEL GURDON SALTONSTALL TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Honble Sir

New London Augt 31. 1775 PM. 6. Clock

Majr [Jonathan] Latimers detachment reached Ston harbor Last evening about sunset, & by that time there was 800 Men under Arms, the Canonading ceased above 5 C. yesterday the Enemy had 4 men kiled, & one lost a hand – of the Colenys Troops 2 wounded, one of wch sd Mortaly.

This morning about 9 Clock the *Rose* Capt. [James] Wallace 3 tenders & 4 small prizes stood out of the harbor & came too under N W. part of Fishers Island and are probably now there – At 2 Clock last night recd from Colo [Jabez] Huntington 2 bbs Powder its now in my Store & shall be husbanded in best manner for the Publick.

Its uncertain who gave the first fire at Stonington, its most probable to me that on the Cutters takeing prizes in the Road, & going to take more at the Wharfs, high words arose & they persisting Imagine our Troops fired & kiled the above men, as the Cutters imedeately after probably fired on the Town, & then pushed out to the *Rose* without watch hill, & on giveing her accot of the matter they all stood in to the harbor, & Canonaded violently, about 12 Cl. a Flag went on board to know why he fired on them, & his reply was that he was on the defensive, for they had fired on his boats, & shewd the dead men there on his Deck, & the wounded man, as soon as the Flag returned Canonading was renewd

This is the best Accot I can colect, but its hard to come at the truth therefore must conjecture, as circumstances appear – Majr Latimere ask's me when to call back his Troops, & advised him to do it to morrow, if the Ships dont appear off Stonington in the morning, and its not probable they will, and don't expect they'l come into this port, however shall keep a good look out. Yr [&c.]

G Saltonstall

1. Jonathan Trumbull Papers, ConnSL.

COLONEL GURDON SALTONSTALL TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

[Extract]

New London Augt 31 1775 8 Clock P M

This moment I am favoured with your leter of this day by Mr George Griscomb, and acknowledge your Honors favor relative the powder; at 6 Clock this evening wrote your Honor every thing I could learn touching the Stonington Attack, which youl have by Mr [David] Bushnell by whom I intend to send this if he is not gone . . .

Colo [Jabez] Huntington's express for Inteligence came in at noon & gave him the substance of what youl find in mine of 6 Clock

1. Jonathan Trumbull Papers, ConnSL.

COLONEL GURDON SALTONSTALL TO COLONEL JABEZ HUNTINGTON ¹

Sr

New London Augt 31 1775

your favour of yesterday with the two barriels powder Came to hand two Clock this Morning & is in my Store and Shall be Improved in the best Manner for the Publick – your favour of this day is before me the Ships have not fired as I Can learn since about 5 Clock Last Evening the best accounts I Can get of the beginning of the Hostilities is that two Packets employd by Rhod island to Land 200 Men at Block Island from Stonington after much Hazard from the men of Warr & Transports round Block Island landed their Men their & pushed back for Stonington being pursued by Two Tenders into Harbour then the Tenders took 2 Vessels at Anchor & went to the wharfe to take more Vessels & after prohibition from so doing & threats no doubt on both sides they persisted in their Robary and then it appears probable to me the Americans fird and killed some Menowars Crew – The Tenders then fired a few Shott & put out met Capt [James] Wallace in the *Rose* off Watchhill, they returnd with him into Stn Harbr & fired upon the Houses a Flag was Sent on bord Walace abt noon to know why they fired on them he Shewd the flag four dead men of his Ships Crew & one his hand Shot off & Said he was on the defensive and would blow the Town down & as soon as the flag returned he renewed the cannonading with the utmost Vigor we had one man mortaly wounded in the neck & one other slightly wounded the Country are gone from the Northward to their assistance Majr [Jonathan] Latimers detachmt of 200 arraived their early in the Evening – at 11 Clock last night Thos Mumford Esqr left the Ships in Stn Harbour am told whilst he was their writing a Letter a Cannon Ball passd through the room he Sat in I have not seen him The Transports its aprehendd will not be able to take B. Island Stock Expect they will Try Montauk & its Neighbroad Genl [David] Woster is their and the Committe of Suffolk who ware notified by Express from hence last fryday of the Advice Govr [Jonathan] Trumble commund to us from Genl Washington – therefore they will no doubt be ready to receive them the Stock is Sd to be of[f] Gardiners & Plumb Island suppose it is so Our Stock of Powder & Ball is all deliverd out how it was at Groton dont know but as the messenger

from Stonington to us Yesterday was after powder presume Groton could not Supply it.

Yr [&c.]

G. Saltonstall

1. Trumbull Papers, ConnSL.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW-LONDON, AUGUST 31 [1775]”¹

Yesterday morning at six o'clock, we were alarmed by a severe firing to the eastward of this harbour, and in a little time an express arrived from Stonington (a small town about twelve miles distant) informing, that a tender had pursued two small sloops into that harbour, who ran on shore, and the people landed before the tender was in gun shot; and as soon as she got in, they fired a full broadside into the town, tacked, and went out; and in a little time returned with two more tenders and his Majesty's ship the *Rose*: The ship came to anchor and brought her side to bear against the town, and began to fire; the tenders also, who kept under sail, and both ship and sloops continued (without intermission) firing the whole day, and by express (which has since arrived) they have killed two of our men. There is now numbers of our people collected and are there; and when the tender came within musket shot we fired on them: One tender got on the ground, and in carrying out a hawser our people imagined they killed several in the boat. There has been a flag sent off on board the *Rose* to know the reason of this extra work. The Captain says our people fired on his tender first, and that he will blow the town down. This morning is a cessation of firing – hope the matter is settled.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, September 4, 1775.

ACCOUNT OF ATTACK ON NEW LONDON BY H.M.S. *Rose*¹

Wednesday morning [August 30] a tender chased two small sloops into Stonington harbor, who had a number of people on board bound to Block-Island. they had but just time to get on shore before the tender came in, and after making a tack came close along side of Captain Denison's Wharf, and discharged a full broad side into the stores and houses and sailing out again, in a little time returned with the *Rose* man of war and another tender, And soon as the *Rose* could get her broadside to bare on the town she began a very heavy fire, also the tenders, who were under sail, and continued firing the whole day, with very little intermission; during the time a flag was sent off from the shore, desiring Capt. Wallace, commander of the *Rose*, to let them know what he meant by firing on the town? His answer was, that he did it in his own defence. We have one man mortally wounded, and the houses, stores, &c. very much shattered. Yesterday morning [August 31] they sailed out and anchored at the north-side of the west-end of Fisher's Island, where they remain at this publication. There were five or six people killed on board the tenders, by the inhabitants who assembled and were under arms the whole day. They have carried off a schooner loaded with

molasses, belonging to Patuxet, in Providence, from the West-Indies, and the two small sloops that landed the people. .

1. *New York Gazette*, Sept. 11, 1775. Account was from New London and dated Sept. 1, 1775.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO THE COMMISSIONERS FOR INDIAN
AFFAIRS IN THE NORTHERN DEPARTMENT ¹

Gentlemen

Ticonderoga August 31st 1775

Captain [Remember] Baker of the unenlisted Green Mountain Boys, having been heretofore employed by me on Scout to Canada with the only View to gain Intelligence, and with express Orders not to molest the Canadians or Indians, lately went into that Country without my Leave with a Party of five Men, and discovering a Boat manned by an equal Number of Indians (by authentic Intelligence sent me from Canada, I learn of the Cagnawaga Tribe) attempted to fire on them, but his Gun missing and, he putting his Head from behind the Tree where he stood, in Order to hammer his Flint, received a Shot in his Forehead, and instantly expired – Upon which his Party returned the Fire and unfortunately killed two of the Indians. This Event my Canadian Correspondent informs me has induced some of the Indians of that Tribe to join the regular Forces at St Johns. What the Consequence of Baker's Imprudence may be, it is hard to foresee. It behoves however to attempt to eradicate from the Minds of the Indians any evil Impressions they may have imbibed from this mortifying Circumstance. But what Measures to take to gain so desirable an End, I am utterly at a Loss to determine. Perhaps a few Indians of the six Nations might be willing to join the Army under my Command in a peaceable Message to those of Canada. And as this Account will most certainly reach the six Nations, I believe it may be most prudent to prepare them for it in such a Manner as you who can be assisted with the best Advice at Albany shall determine. You will be pleased to forward a Copy of this Letter by Express to Congress, to whom I would have wrote, was not my Time so wholly engrossed in the necessary Preparation for moving the Remainder of the Army which I have ordered to embark this Afternoon & tomorrow Morning and with which I propose to take Possession of the Isle au Noix, till more Artillery can be sent me, I having sent down only four twelve Pounders, the others not being in Readiness.

I am Gent. [&c.]

Ph. Schuyler.

Please to communicate no more of this Letter than is absolutely necessary to any Body.

To Oliver Wolcott, Turbot Francis & Volcklet P. Downs Esqrs Commissioners for Indian Affairs.²

1. President's Letter Book, III, LC.

2. Congress authorized three departments to deal with the Indians on July 12, 1775, and the gentlemen listed above, plus General Schuyler and Joseph Hawley, were named commissioners for the Northern Department the following day. The *Journal of Congress* spells Downs's Christian name, "Volkert." See Sept 6, 1775, vol. II, for conveyance of a copy of the above to Congress.

New York Journal, Thursday, August 31, 1775

New York, August 31.

We hear from Providence, that on Tuesday the 22d instant his Majesty's ships the *Rose*, *Swan* and *Glasgow*, attempted to go to Providence, and got within 8 miles of the town, when two of them ran ashore and the other came to an anchor. Soon after arrived a brig and a sloop inward bound from the West-Indies, these were immediately chased by the men of war's barges and 3 cutters, till they ran ashore at Warwick, where they were boarded by the man of war's men in sight of a great number of people who had assembled on the shore. There were in the harbour 2 armed schooners fitted out by the town of Providence for the protection of their trade, and were going to convoy a small fleet down the river. A smart engagement then began and lasted 3 hours and an half, during which, an incessant fire was kept up between the 2 schooners and the brig and sloop, which the people on board often attempted to get off, but as often were driven from the windlasses. But at last they cut the brig's cable and carried her off, with the Captain on board, who refused to quit her; the sloop we retook and brought into the harbour, tho' fired upon by the man of war as we passed them. We had not a man killed or wounded, which is surprising. Upwards of 30 cannon ball were picked up on the shore. It is supposed many of the enemy are killed. The men of war are at present in Bristol harbour, where they have begun to rob and plunder the plantation of Mr. William Wessels.

We hear from Philadelphia, that last Week a Shallop laden with Coffee, taken from another Vessel that has escaped, also a Schooner from St. Eustatia, belonging to Mr. Samuel Mifflin, were taken by the *Nautilus* Man of War and carried quite off, being under no apprehension of an Attack.¹

1. The sloop *Polly* and schooner *Tryal*. See Journal of the *Nautilus*, Aug. 22, 1775.

ABRAHAM LOTT, NAVY VICTUALLING AGENT FOR NEW YORK, TO THE NEW YORK
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen—

[New York] August 31st, 1775.

This morning I have seen a printed resolution of the Honourable Board, dated the 29th instant, by which I am permitted in future (agreeably to former directions) to supply His Majesty's ships on this station "with all necessaries, as well fresh as salt, and that such supplies be sent by me to the Governor's island, to be taken from thence on board of the said ships."

In pursuance of which, I propose to write a letter to Capt. [George] Vandeput, informing him of the leave given by the Honourable Board. But as the beer and water for the King's ships have been supplied from Brookland ferry and not from this city; as these articles are put on board of the ships in large heavy butts, which require a number of hands to hoist them in and out of the boats, and can not be obtained any where else with the same ease and convenience; and as the inhabitants at the ferry have no objection to the man of war's boat coming there to take off those articles, I humbly pray the honourable Congress will be pleased (prior to my writing Capt. Vandeput) to signify their opinion whether the man of war's

boats permitted to go to the ferry for beer and water, and whether I may assure him they will not be molested and hurt in going on that business.

I hope I may be permitted to add, that if this liberty is not granted, it will be a difficult matter for the ships to water, as they cannot get it on the Governor's island; nor do I conceive how it will be in my power to supply them with beer in any other mode.

I have the honour, with all due deference to your superior judgments, to be, gentlemen [&c.]

Abrm Lott

P. S. Enclosed I send an account of what I have supplied and am to supply His Majesty's Ship *Asia* with.

[Enclosure]

New York, August 31, 1775

Pursuant to the order of the honourable the Provincial Congress for the Colony of New York of the 27th May, 1775, I have supplied His Majesty's Ship *Asia*, between the 27th of July and 2d of August, with the following provisions for her own use, viz: Bread, 20,618 pounds; flour, 28 cwt. 3 qrs. 2 lb.; butter, 1,195 pounds; beer, have not got the brewer's account, and thus cannot ascertain the quantity. I have lately received another order for – bread, 10,000 pounds; butter, 10 firkins; peas, 34 bushels; oatmeal, 84 bushels; which propose to supply in a few days.

Abraham Lott

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, II, 28.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Jovis, 9 ho. A.M., August 31, 1775

Messrs. Leonard Lispenard, Isaac Roosevelt, and Jacobus VanZandt brought into Congress a contract by them made on behalf of this Congress with Joseph Hallett, Jr., for the importing of fifteen tons of gunpowder and fourteen hundred stand of arms, and for any quantity of saltpetre which he may import in lieu of the said gunpowder.

The said contract was read and approved of, and ordered to be filed.

The examination of Jacobus Stoutenburgh Jr. a messenger from Dutchess county, with relation to Peter Dop and his sloop, was taken and filed.

Ordered, That Colonel [John] Lasher be directed to furnish a sufficient detachment from his battalion to take and seize the sloop, and people on board, which is charged with having supplied necessities for the use of the army and navy, and now lying at anchor near the *Asia* ship of war.

Ordered further, That Col. Lasher use his discretion with respect to the mode, time, and place of seizing the said sloop; and that the said sloop, when seized, be taken to some secure place up the river, and stripped of her sails, rudder, &c., and that such persons as shall be found on board, be immediately brought to this Congress by land.

Die Jovis, 4. ho. P.M. August 31, 1775

Linus King, Thomas Marston and Hamilton Young filed affidavits with respect to the brig *Polly*, bound to the West Indies, and also a list of her cargo, as is directed. also an affidavit of Bernard McDavit, the master of said brig *Polly*, as is directed by this Congress to be taken by the master.

Ordered, That the brig *Polly*, with her cargo now on board, be permitted to sail.

Archibald Mercer, filed a like affidavit, as owner of the sloop *Greyhound*, bound to Curracoa, with a list of her cargo; also the affidavit of William Montanye, master of said sloop *Greyhound*, as directed and required by this Congress.

Ordered, That the said sloop *Greyhound* with her cargo now on board, be permitted to sail.

John Murray filed such affidavit, as owner of the ship *Peggy*, bound to Falmouth, and laden with wheat, as is required to be taken by an owner.

Die Jovis 4 ho. P M, Aug. 31, 1775

A letter from Abraham Lott, Esq. agent-victualler for His Majesty's ships in this port, was read and filed; also an account of provisions supplied the ship *Asia* with, between the 27th of July and the 2d of August; also, an account of provisions required for the use of said ship. . . .

Ordered, That Abraham Lott, Esq. agent for victualling His Majesty's ships, be requested to attend this Congress to -morrow morning, and also to furnish this Congress with an estimate of the quantity of provisions the Ship *Asia* will require per week, and the number of men on board.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 129.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, August 31st [1775]

Resolved, That Capt. James Montgomery be appointed to the Command of one of the Armed Boats.

Resolved, That the Members of this board who go down to Gloucester on Fryday or Saturday next be a Committee to inform Mr. Joseph Hugg that this Board will supply him with a Boat, and a Cannon for the same, and Commission him as Commander of her, provided the Province of New Jersey will Man, pay and victual said Boat.

Resolved, That each of the Armed Boats be provided with two Brass Pateroes, and that Capt. [Robert] White procure the same.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 328.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1775

Philadelphia, August 31.

The *Nautilus* man of war, we hear, is sailed for Boston.¹

1. The *Nautilus* cleared the Capes Aug. 24, 1775, bound for Boston with her two prizes; *Journal of the Nautilus*.

WOOLSEY AND SALMON TO THOMAS McCABE, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 31 Augt [1775]

p Capt Weeks ²

Our publick papers will give us [*sic* you] a perticuler acct of our troubles here, however you need not [be] Affraid of us Giveing up our libertyes, when all the English troops that is yet Come out, have not Deard to Penetrate one foot into the Country beyond the reach of the Men of Warrs Guns, & tho the[y] drove the Countrey people from Bunkers hill, the English troops were so well Swetted, by Raw Undisciplend men, that the[y] never persued them twenty Steps from the field of battle, and to this day the[y] never gaind one foot more Ground than the[y] did that Day of Engagement, beside they are in want of provisions, whilst the Countrey has an Army of 20,000 Men well Supplied with all Necessarys, from which Circumstances, you Can your Self Judge whether we will tamely give up or not, —

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Snow *Potomac*, Edward Weeks, master.BILL OF LADING FOR GOODS SHIPPED ON BOARD THE SHIP *Eleanor* ¹

Shipped by the Grace of God, in good Order, and well Conditioned by *Buchanan & Cowan* in and upon the good Ship called the *Eleanor* whereof is Master, under God, for this present Voyage, *George Buchanan* and now Riding at Anchor in the *River Patapsco*. and by God's Grace, bound for *London* to say,

One hundred and twenty two hhds of Maryland Leaf Tobacc being mark'd and number'd as in *Manifest*, and are to be delivered in the like good Order, and well Condition'd, at the aforesaid Port of *London* (the Danger of the Seas only excepted) unto *Messrs Wallace Davidson & Johnson* or to *their* Assigns, he or they paying Freight for the said Goods *Seven pounds Sterling P Ton and two thirds port Charges* with Primage and Average accustom'd. In witness whereof the Master or Purser of the said Ship hath affirm'd to *two* Bills of Lading, all of this Tenor and Date; the one of which *two* Bills being accomplish'd the other *one* to stand void. And so God send the good Ship to her desired Port in safety. Amen. Dated in *Baltimore Town Augt 31, 1775*.

Geo: Buchanan

Sold by J. Mount and T. Page, on Tower-Hill.

1. MdHS. A printed form with handwriting shown in italics.

JOSIAH MARTIN, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹*Private*No Carolina Cruizer Sloop of War in Cape Fear River
Augst 31st 1775.

My Lord I do myself the honour to introduce to Your Lordship, the bearer hereof, Mr Robt Hogg, a Merchant of first consideration in this Colony, where he has Resided many years, and who is now compelled by popular clamour, and Resentment, to abandon his important concerns here, because he will not

renounce his principles, which he has maintained with a manly firmness, and Steadiness, which do equal honor to his heart and understanding.

As I know no Gentleman better qualified than Mr Hogg both by his intelligence and candour to Represent the state of this Colony, I think it a point of duty to introduce him to Your Lordship, and to give you opportunity of communicating with him.

I have the honor to be &ca

Jo. Martin

1. Dartmouth Mss., WSL.

1 Sept.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston, September. 1. 1775.

Notwithstanding the Rebels Attack upon the King's Troops on the 19th of April and their subsequent behaviour would I think have fully justified my exerting the whole force of His Majesty's Squadron under my Command against the New England Provinces several Months ago; Yet I have hitherto forebore, hoping this unhappy People would either have returned to their Duty, or that before this time the final determination of Great Britain Concerning them would have been known: But after the repeated Insults and Losses His Majesty's Squadron has sustained by part of it being burnt and taken; the King's People killed and made Prisoners; Light Houses destroyed; Commerce interrupted, And the Preparations for War daily making in the different Towns, I can no longer delay using the Means in my power to prevent the progress of such Rebellious and Pyratrical Transactions.

With your Excellency's approbation and Assistance, I purpose to lay Waste such Sea Port Towns in the New England Governments as are not likely to be useful to His Majesty's Stores and to destroy all the Vessels within the Harbours. To this End I must beg your Excellency to assist me with such Men, Vessels, Artillery Forces &ca as His Majesty's Squadron is not provided with, and are really requisite for the intended Service.

A Party of Soldiers under the Command of a steady, experienced Officer, would almost ensure success to the Expedition and I submit to your Excellency's better Judgment how many will answer the purpose.

A small detachment from the Artillery will also be necessary under the Command of a Subaltern whom I should be glad to name.

It may be proper to mention that the *Symmetry* and *Spitfire* require some small fitting to receive Howitzers and Mortar, Carriages for the Howitzers are also wanting. And as I have no person in the fleet who can do that sort of Work, I must beg the Artillery and Transport Carpenters may assist those of the Squadron under the direction of Mr Austin the Artillery Master Carpenter. But not to trouble your Excellency with too many applications on this business, I enclose a particular Account of every thing that I believe we shall have occasion to ask for; and, satisfied of your readiness to Co-operate with

and assist me on all occasions for this Majestys Service, It will give Me great pleasure If your Excellency approving my proposal, is pleased to order the required Supplies to be furnished with as much dispatch as possible I have the honor to be with great regard and Esteem Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL; a copy in Graves's Conduct, 192, 193, MassHS Transcript.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 1775 Sept 1

The Admiral was impatient to revenge the Insults shown his Cruizers, and to scourge the Inhabitants of these Sea Port Towns where they had suffered and also of those places from whence the Privateers, which then and afterwards did so much mischief to our Transports and Tenders, were continually popping out as soon as a Merchant Ship appeared off: Therefore if the Expedition now proposed to the General by letter and to which he at Length gave way, could have earlier taken effect, with Troops sufficient, much Loss to his Majesty would have been prevented, and very possibly the Coast of the Massachusetts Bay kept in as great Awe, that they would scarcely have suffered any Privateers to have taken shelter amongst them.

It was by the Admirals allowing Captain [James] Wallace to keep on board the *Rose* a party of 37 Marines above his Complement, besides many supernumerary Seamen in his own and the other Ships and Vessels with him, that he was enabled to arm Vessels suited to the Navigation of the small Rivers and Creeks, and whenever occasion required to land a hundred men and upwards and ravage the coast; that he kept his Post at Rhode Island in spite of the Enemy, and not only prevented the Privateers of force actually fitted out at Providence from getting to Sea, but compelled the Congress of Cambridge ² to consent to his little Squadron being supplied with fresh Provisions, in order to save the Towns and People on the Sea Coast from Destruction; and no Doubt hindered Numbers of small Privateers from being equipped in that Colony. Could the other Ships of the Squadron have been well supplied with Musquetry, what might not have been done? But the Admiralty's Orders to land the Marines, the very low Complements to, and the Condition of the few Ships with the Admiral, effectually tied up his hands from either thoroughly protecting our own Trade, or harrassing the Enemy by Descents.

The *Halifax* new armed Schooner arrived from Halifax with a Convoy of Transports, and brought the Admiral Letters from Governor [Francis] Legge, Captain [Edward] Medows of the *Tartar*, and Captain [William] Dudingston of the *Senegal*. It seems the Province was much alarmed with Reports of Pyrates in the Bay of Fundy, and the Governor by the advice of his Council applied to Capt. Medows to sail with all the Kings Ships and Vessels then in the Harbour to the Bay of Fundy, but Captain Medows acquainted the Governor that as all the Province Arms were put on board Vessels in Halifax Harbour under his Protection, he thought the most essential service the *Tartar* could do would be to remain there; and that he would send the *Senegal* to the Bay of Fundy, which, with the two armed Schooners at that time there, he was certain would be sufficient at present

for the protection of our Trade, and the Western parts of the Province, the Rebels not being yet in a Condition to attempt any thing considerable; And he was sure the Admiral would provide for the Security of the whole Province. . . . Captain Dudingstone sent the Schooner on with them ³ to Boston, and went himself into the Bay to collect all the Vessels bound with Cattle and Forage to Boston. And the Admiral himself wrote shortly afterwards to Govr Legge on the subject of his letter.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 194–196, MassHS Transcript.

2. The Rhode Island Assembly, not the Massachusetts Congress, ordered the provisioning of the British ships of war.

3. Graves is referring to the transports from Halifax.

JONATHAN JENKINS TO DR. NATHANIEL FREEMAN ¹

Sr.

Nantucket 1 Sept 1775

I use the freedom from the former acquaintance I had with your Person, to request the favr of a correspondance by Letters, if the present difficulties have not taken up yr attention so far as to disable you to comply as being upon an Island have Not an Oppy of geting the right of any Story, & you being placed in such a Station as to be knowing to all that transpires; so various are the accots. we have here, that there is no knowing which is right, we have heard that it past a Resolve, that no provision should be brought to this Island & that all communication was to be stopt. I understand that they censor us as Tory upon the Main, & charge us with supplying *Tom Gage* with Provisions, it is all fals, there has never been any kind of Provision whatsoever gone from here to Boston, except three Barrels of Flour which Wm Rotch sent as a present to three Widow; which he sent the time that Capt Richd Coffin went down to bring Geyer & Burgess's Ship that was carried there by a King Ship. I must acknowledge that our leading Men, have been very backward in not vindicating the Charrecter of the Island, but let so many false storys pass about & not take notice of it As to the inhabittance here being Tory, they are not, but as well wishers to the Cause contending, as any sett of People whersoever, but the Situation of this Island is Such as will not admit of our doing anything except we pack up our all & abandon it, we are no way capiable of defending ourselves, from even an Arm Schooner with twenty Soldiers on board, did we not make it evident to Capt [Joshua] Davis when he came on here for Whale boat with his Hundred Men? did we not supply them with all the Powder, ball & Guns that we had, we did & that am knowing too, Several Men whose principles were such as would not admit of there Supplying any person with instruments of War, never objected or shew any dislike when thier Clarks or any other took out of thier Stores powder & Lead to Supply the Soldiers with, What has there been requested of us, that we have not comply'd too? you have never ask'd Men of us, when ever men are Necessary from this Island, I doubt not but we shall be able to turn out a Hundred or More of as good Marksmen as any of the Rifle Men & men who wants not for courage. It very much surprisd me to hear that that half Starv'd [torn] the best times *Baree River* should resolve at their Town Meeting Not to Supply us with any of the Necessarys of Life, they never had one tenth part of provision enough to subsist on among themselves,

but carried from here the Chief of their support, without us they would all Starve in a heap, since their Resolves there people has been obligd to bring over here all the Cash they could muster to purchase beef Pork flour &c. which they us'd to get by bringing over Homspun Cloath, Stocking, thread &c those that are not able to purchase a barrell of any kind have been about to the Private Houses & beg'd them to Share five or six pound Pork & beef & seven pound flour, Molls Sugar &c in the same manner & acknowledge that if the communication is not soon free again, that many of their poor people will suffer, many whose sole dependance was in bringing over fruit & roots to purchase beef with is now cut off[f] by the rash & inconsiderate resolve what I have freely scawld upon this Sheet hope you'l not expose to the speculation of any for want of time & my paper falling Short conclude in Subscribing myself your Friend &[c.]

[Jon^a Jenkins]

Doctr Nath Freeman at Sandwich

1. NHA.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] Sept. 1 [1775]

By two men from stonington we learn, that Cap [James] Wallace chased a Vessel in there – that the Cutters pursueing there Boats in there A Man standing on land called to the Boats & directed them. Upon which the Cutters told them they would fire on the To[wn] if the p[eo]ple directed the Boats. At length the Cutters fired two rounds on the Boats & then come up and fired with Swivels & Small Arms on the Town. The p[eo]ple then Sent out a Flag of Truce & Wallace fired on them, they returned. Then Wallace drew up & fired away on the Houses. The p[eo]ple returned the fire on the Cutters, who were getting away Some Vessels, upon this they had a parly & ceased firing. But the Man o' War's men proceeding to get out & carrying off 4 Vessels from the Wharfs, the p[eo]ple told them they would defend them. Then the fire on both Sides was returned. And Wallace fired on the Houses from IX o'clock morn'g 'till one & ceased for Dinner. After which he began again & fired till near night. Greatly damaged the Houses But a Mercifull Providence prevented the loss of any lives on our Side & only one Wounded. Wallace then drew off & anchored under Fisher's Isld ²

1. Stiles, III, 76, LC.

2. This is a very garbled hearsay account of the bombardment of Stonington.

“REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*” ¹

Sept^r 1775

Clay Head S S E 5 or 6 Miles

Friday 1

P M Stop't a Sloop with Horses from New London,² at 4 weigh'd and came to sail.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

2. The *Black Joak*, John Mackibbin, master, the property of Nathaniel Shaw, Jr. She was bound to Jamaica with horses, onions, and oats, and was condemned and sold in Boston in mid-September. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript. See also Shaw to Mackibbin, July 12, 1775.

JOHN POTTER TO NICHOLAS COOKE, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND ¹

Sir, —

S. Kingstown, Sept. 1st, 1775

Yours of yesterday's date came safe to hand per Ezekiel Burr In answer. I have no intelligence of more than one man-of-war and four tenders, being near and between here and Block Island. By the best information there is about two hundred of our people got on Block Island. Agreeable to your request, I shall, without any loss of time, forward your orders and advice to the inhabitants of Block Island. Am in great hopes the express for Block Island will arrive there this evening and am ready and willing to do everything else in my power for our Common safety, and am Sir &c.

John Potter

P.S. Must refer you to Mr. Burr for particulars.

1. *Collections Rhode Island Historical Society*, VI, 121, 122.

JOSEPH STANTON, JR. TO DEPUTY GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Sir,

Charlestown, 1st Sept. 1775

I have been obliged to take the Town's Stocks of powder and ball from Westerly, Charlestown and Hopkintown, to equip the troops for the Block Island expedition, and to press 50 fire-arms. Of consequence, we are left in a most defenceless and wretched situation. These are, therefore, to beg your Honor would immediately order that the above towns may be supplied, as numbers of the inhabitants are much displeased with me for taking their powder, ball and arms, at a time when our most inveterate enemies are on every side insulting of us. Capt. [James] Wallace, with three tenders, gave chase in pursuit of two of our transports, with 75 men, who were on their passage to Block Island. The night coming on when they were in the middle of the Sound, and about a league distance from the *Rose* and tender, gave our troops an opportunity to make their escape. The transports landed their men, and returned to the harbour the same night. In the morning the ship *Rose* and her tenders came into the above harbour, [and] began a heavy fire on the town, which continued most of the day. The women and children abandoned the town, in the midst of a severe rain storm. It is surprising that we had only one man wounded. The tenders stretched off and on within 60 yards of the wharves, and received the fire of our musketry, from behind the wharves, stores and rocks. We have reason to believe we killed number of the enemy. 300 of Col. [Charles] Webb's regiment, who were stationed at New London, arrived in the evening with great numbers of the inhabitants, who behaved with great intrepidity, and even the women were rather mad than surprised. The houses received some damage from the *Rose*, but none from the tenders.² Col. Rhodes is on the Island with 180 troops. The remainder will embark in small boats, as we think it most safe, immediately. We have not a sufficient supply of powder for the Island expedition. Should be glad of a few casks. Yours &c.

Jos. Stanton, Jun.

P.S. Three vessels of war are now cruising round the Island

1. *Collections Rhode Island Historical Society*, VI, 122, 123.

2. Stanton was describing the attack on Stonington, Aug. 30, 1775.

Connecticut Gazette, NEW LONDON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1775

New-London, September 1.

Wednesday Morning [August 30] a Tender chased two small sloops into Stonington harbour, who had a number of People on Board, bound to Block Island, and they had but just Time to get on shore, before the Tender came in, and after making a Tack they came close along side of Capt. Dennison's Wharf and discharged a full broadside into the stores, houses, &c. and sailed out again, and in a little Time returned with the *Rose* Man of War and another Tender, and as soon as the *Rose* could get her broadside to bear on the Town, she began a very heavy fire, also the Tenders who were under sail; during the Time a flag was sent off from the shore, desiring Captain [James] Wallace, commander of the *Rose*, to let them know what he meant by firing on the Town? – His answer was that he did it in his own defence. We have one Man mortally wounded, and the houses, stores, &c. very much shattered. Yesterday Morning they sailed out and anchored at the north side of the west end of Fisher's Island, where they remain at this Publication. There were five or Six People killed on board the Tenders by the inhabitants, who assembled and were under arms the whole day. They have carried off a schooner loaded with Molasses belonging to Patuxet in Providence, from the West Indies, and the two small sloops that landed the People.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Veneris, 9 HO. A.M. September 1st 1775.

An estimate or account from Abraham Lott, Esq. agent-victualler for His Majesty's ships in this port, was read; and Abraham Lott, Esq. being so indisposed as to be confined to his house, by one of the Secretaries, requested a conference with some member or members of this Congress.

Ordered, That Mr. Clarkson, Mr. Walton and Mr. Sears, be a committee to confer with Abraham Lott, Esq. and also to report to this Congress on the Letter of Abraham Lott, Esq. requesting to permit the ship *Asia's* boats to get beer and water at Brooklyn; and also on the quantities of provisions proper to be supplied to the said ship.

The committee appointed to confer with Abraham Lott, Esq. agent for victualling His majesty's ships, reported that they had conferred with him, and are of the opinion that the best method of supplying the said ship with beer and water, is to let her be supplied from Brooklyn ferry, with beer and water as usual; and that she be supplied with provisions weekly, agreeable to the order of this Congress.

Resolved, therefore, That the said ship have leave to be supplied with beer and water from Brooklyn ferry as usual; and that they be supplied with provisions weekly, agreeable to the former resolution of this House.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 129.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, September 1st, 1775

Resolved, That Mr. Hugh Montgomery be appointed Lieutenant of the Armed Boat to be Commanded by Capt. John Harrison.

Whereas, there are good reasons to suppose the Armed Boats may very soon be called into action, it is necessary to Man the same with not less than thirty nor more than fifty Men to each Boat, Officers included, who are to be shipped for two months certain, and from that time until discharged by orders from Assembly or this Board :

Resolved, That the following be the monthly pay of the officers and Men employed in the Provincial Armed Boats:

The Commodore,	30 Dollars per month.
Every Captain of a Boat,	20 ditto per do.
Every Lieutenant,	12 ditto per do. ²
Surgeon of the Fleet,	20 ditto per do.
Surgeon's Mate,	12 ditto per do.
Every Steward of a Boat,	10 ditto per do.
Every Captain's Clerk,	8 ditto per do.
Every Mate and Gunner,	10 ditto per do.
Every Carpenter,	10 ditto per do.
Every Boatswain,	8 ditto per do.
Every Cook,	6 ditto per do.
Every Drummer,	6 ditto per do.
Every Private,	6 ditto per do.
Every Boy,	4 ditto per do.

Resolved, That every Man, Officers and Privates, employed in the Armed Boats, shall have the following weekly allowance of Provisions and Rum, or Malt Beer:

Seven pounds of Bread per Week, or six pounds of Flour.

Ten pounds of Beef, Mutton, or Pork.

The value of Six pence per Week, in Roots and Vegetables.

Salt and Vinegar.

Three pints and a half of Rum, or Beer in proportion.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 329.

2. Increased to 14 dollars per month, by resolve Sept. 14, 1775, *ibid.*, 334.

2 Sept.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTAIN NICHOLSON BROUGHTON ¹

1st. You being appointed a Captain in the Army of the United Colonies of North America,² are hereby directed to take the Command of a Detachment of said Army and proceed on Board the Schooner *Hannah*, at Beverly, lately fitted out & equip'd with Arms, Ammunition and Provisions at the Continental Expence.

2nd. You are to proceed as Commander of Sd Schooner, immediately on a Cruize against such Vessels as may be found on the High Seas or elsewhere, bound inward and outward to or from Boston, in the Service of the ministerial Army, and to take and seize all such Vessels, laden with Soldiers, Arms, Ammunition, or Provisions for or from sd Army, or which you shall have good Reason to suspect are in such Service.

3rd. If you should be so successful as to take any of such Vessels, you are immediately to send them to the nearest and safest Port to this Camp, under a careful Prize-Master, directing him to notify me by Express immediately of such Capture, with all Particulars and there to wait my farther Direction.

4th. You are to be very particular and diligent in your Search after all Letters and other Papers tending to discover the designs of the Enemy, or of any other Kind, and to forward all such to me as soon as possible.

5th. Whatever Prisoners you may take you are to treat with Kindness and Humanity, as far as is consistent with your own Safety. their private Stock of Money, and Apparell to be given them after being duly search'd, and when they arrive at any Port, you are to apply to the Committee, or to any Officer of the Continental Army stationed at such Port for a Guard to bring them up to Head Quarters.

6th. For your own Encouragement and that of the other Officers and Men, to Activity, and Courage in this Service, over and above your Pay in the Continental Army, you shall be entitled to one third Part of the Cargo of every Vessel by you taken, and sent into Port, (military and naval Stores only excepted, which with Vessels and Apparell are reserved for the publick Service) which 1st third Part is to be divided among the Officers and Men in the following Proportions. Captain 6 Shares, 1st Lieutt. 5 do, 2nd Lieutt. 4 do, Ship's Master 3 do, Steward 2 do, Mate $1\frac{1}{2}$ do, Gunner $1\frac{1}{2}$ do, Boatswain $1\frac{1}{2}$ do, Gunners Mate and Serjt. $1\frac{1}{2}$ do, Privates 1 Share each.

7th. You are particularly charged to avoid any Engagement with any armed Vessel of the Enemy, though you may be equal in Strength, or may have some small Advantage; the Design of this Enterprize, being to intercept the Supplies of the Enemy, which will be defeated by your running into unnecessary Engagements.

8th. As there may be other Vessels employed in the same Service with yourselves, you are to fix upon proper Signals, and your Stations being settled so as to take the greatest Range, avoid cruising on the same Ground. If you should happen to take Prizes in Sight of each other; the Rules which take Place among Private Ships of War, are to be observed in the Distribution of the Prize-Money.

9th. In Case of retaking the Vessel of any Friend to the American Cause, I will recommend it to such Person to make a suitable Compensation to those who have done such a Service; but such Vessels are not to be deemed as coming within the Directions respecting other Vessels.

10th. You are to be extremely careful and frugal of your Ammunition, by no Means to waste any of it in Salutes, or for any Purpose, but what is absolutely necessary.

Go Washington

([Endorsed] Sept. 1775 to Captn Nicholson Broughton ³ Instructions [Endorsed by Captain Richard Varick] Captn B. sailed the 5th Sept. N.B. his Letter of 7th)

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 467–469, except the signature and the conclusion in parentheses which is taken from the Varick Transcripts and Washington Papers LC, respectively.
2. Broughton was commissioned a captain in Col. John Glover's Marblehead Regiment on May 19, 1775.
3. "I hereby Certify that within named Nicholas [*sic*] Broughton, was a Captain in the 21 Regt which I had the Honor to Command, in the Campaign of 1775; in the course of which being a Seaman was appointed to the Command of the first Armd Vessell fitted out in the Service of the United States." Endorsement by Col. John Glover upon a memorial presented to the Continental Congress in July 1781, by Broughton. Papers CC, 41, I, 349, NA.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER ¹

Sir

Camp at Cambridge, September 2, 1775.

I have just received your Favour of the 29th Ult. by express. I am very sensible that the Situation of the Inhabitants of Long-Island, as well as of all those on the Coast, exposes them greatly to the Ravages of the Enemy, and it is to be wished general Protection could be extended to them, consistent with the Prosecution of those great Plans, which have been adopted for the common Safety. This was early foreseen and the Danger provided for by a Resolution of Congress, That each Province should depend on it's own internal Strength against these Incursions, the Prejudice arising from them, even if successful, not being equal to that of separating the Army into a Number of small Detachments, who would be harrassed in fruitless Marches and Counter-Marches, after an Enemy, whose Conveyance by Shipping is so advantageous that they might keep the whole Coast in constant Alarm, without our being able perhaps at any Time, to give them vigorous Opposition. Upon this Principle I have invariably rejected every Application made me here, to keep any Detachments on the Coast for these Purposes. I should, therefore most probably have thought it my Duty, to have ordered the three Companies mentioned in your Letter to have joined your Army, to act in the general Service, had they not been under Command from General Schuyler to join him, but as it is I can by no Means interfere. He is engaged in a Service of the greatest Importance to the whole Continent, his Strength and appointments far short of his Expectations, and to give any counter Orders may not only defeat his whole Plan; but must make me responsible to the Public for the Failure. Instead, therefore, of their further Stay, I would have them march immediately. I fear the Delay of the ten Days may have very bad Effects, as by my last Advices from Ticonderoga, General Schuyler was to march in a few Days for Canada; and it is highly probable he may depend upon these Companies to occupy the Posts of Communication, which otherwise he must weaken his Army to do. No provincial Congress can with any Propriety, interfere in the Disposition of Troops on the continental Establishment, much less controul the Orders of any General

Instructions to Capt Nicholas Broughton

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2. You are to proceed as Commander of said Schooner immediately on a Cruise against such Vessels as may be found on the High Seas or elsewhere bound inwards or outwards to or from Boston, in the Service of the ministerial Army & to take & seize all such Vessels laden with Soldiers, Arms, Ammunition or Provisions for or from said Army or which you shall have good Reasons to suspect are in such Service.
3. If you should be so successful as to take any of said Vessels you are immediately to send to the nearest and safest Port to this Camp under a careful Private Master.



Schooner Hannah.

Officer, so that in this Instance the Congress at New York have judged properly, in declining to counteract General Schuyler's Orders. I wish I could extend my Approbation equally to the whole Line of their Conduct. Before you receive this Letter, you will most probably be able to judge how far your Continuance on Long-Island will be farther necessary. If the Fleet which last sailed was destined for those Coasts, it must be arrived. If it is not, it is certainly gone to the Eastward, and your present Station is no longer necessary. The Importance of preserving the Communication of the North River and many other Reasons induce me to wish you were returned to your former Post. The late Transactions at New York, furnish additional Reasons for your being as near that City, as is consistent with the Discipline and Convenience of your Troops. Your next, therefore, I flatter myself will inform me of your having resumed your former Station I am, Sir, etc.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 465-467.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO NATHANIEL TRACY ¹

Head Quarters, September 2, 1775.

You are hereby authorized and impowered to take up for the Service of the sd. Colonies so many Vessels as shall be necessary for the transporting a Body of Troops to be detached from this Army on a secret Expedition: Freight of such Vessels to be paid in such a Manner and at such a Rate as is indorsed hereon: And in Case of Loss or Damage to such Vessels or any of them such Loss or Damage to be compensated by the Publick according to an Estimation to be made before the sd. Vessels proceed to the above Service.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, III, 470, 471.

BENJAMIN HALLOWELL TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston the 2d September 1775

I am very sorry to be under the necessity of troubling your Excellency again upon the subject of the late transaction between Admiral [Samuel] Graves and my self, being sensible how much your attention must be engrossed by subjects of greater moment and concern to the public, but consiquences that have resulted from that affair render it altogether unavoidable.

I must therefore beg leave to mention the insults that I have met with last night from Lieutenants Thomas, and Samuel Graves, Nephews to the Admiral, and to represent to your Excellency my present precarious situation. I have already taken the liberty to acquaint your Excellency that I had received two different challanges from Lieutenant Thomas Graves in consequence of what had passed between the Admiral and myself.

Having some business to transact late yesterday in the afternoon relative to the King's service in the Revenue department, at Rowes wharfe, I perceived that Mr Thomas Graves accompany'd by the Boatswain of His Majestys Ship *Preston*, with two or three other decently dressed persons, and Several Sailors had posted themselves in such a manner as to prevent my return, Mr Graves besides his Sword had a large bludgeon in his hand and some of the others had sticks -

As I approached towards them Mr Graves advanced Several paces, and desired to know why I had not met him in consequence of the messages he had sent me, that he wished to speak with me on the same business, and desired me to retire with him to the next wharfe, Where the vessel laid which he now commands, I told him that having no dispute with him, I had nothing to say to him upon the subject of the controversy between the Admiral and me – he then began to insult me with abusive language, I expostulated with him upon the impropriety of his Conduct in taking any part in that affair, intimating that I had been ill used by the Admiral, and that he was the only person I was answerable to, adding that the Admiral was fully able to do himself justice without the aid of any other person, and that I was greatly surprised to find him accompany'd by so many people, with an apparent intent as I conceived to do me an injury – After some farther altercation between us in the course of which I told him very freely my opinion of the part he had taken, – and upon the master of the Custom house schooner, remonstrating with him upon his indecent and ungentleman like conduct, he thought proper to withdraw towards his Vessel with his adherents.

Returning into town in my way to Mr Barch's in company with Mr George Leonard, I was met in Cornhill near the bottom of School street, by Lieutenant Samuel Graves, who passed me with a lowering look, and without speaking or the appearance of an intention to do me mischief, came behind me, and struck me a violent blow on the back part of my head, with a bludgeon which he had in his hand – the blow for a time stunned me and deprived me of the power of an immediate reply – I recovered soon, and found him drawing his Sword, and retreating as I advanced. Being unarmed, I reproached him with his cowardly behaviour, and desired him to throw aside his Sword, asking him the cause of his ruffian treatment, – he said it was because I had insulted the Commander in Chief of the Squadron. – The high Sherriff and others coming up and interposing, – we were parted, – but not without an apparent disapprobation and indignation at his conduct by all the standers by, both military & civil, and this morning I received a Challenge from him by a lieutenant of the *Preston*.

Your Excellency will now perceive the precarious situation and predicament in which I am involved by making a demand of my own property, for expostulating with Admiral Graves on his oppression, I received a blow for returning that blow, I have been way laid – abused – struck and challenged by his Nephews, and what is to follow, is yet to be discovered. I am not at liberty to suppose that a Gentleman of Admiral Graves high rank cou'd have any knowledge or participation in such mean and infamous attempts upon my life. If he shou'd feel himself injured from any thing that has passed between us he knows well how to do himself justice, at a proper Season, And I shou'd think that he must also feel and resent the outrage offered by others in his defence.

To your Excellency I appeal for the Justice of my cause, not doubting but you will take such measures, as may in their operation procure me ample reperation for the unmerited abuse and ill treatment I have received, and protection from any farther attacks from ruffians. I am Sir [&c.]

Benⁿ Hallowell

NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Providence, September 2d, 1775

Sir, — I am favoured with your Excellency's letter of the 31st instant, by Capt. [George] Baylor, who has purchased the warlike stores imported by Messrs. Clarke & Nightingale. The prices appear to be very high; but, considering the cost, expenses and risk, I believe they are as low as can be reasonably expected . . . The Committee appointed to act during the recess of the General Assembly have given your proposal, for taking the powder from Bermuda, a full consideration, and have come to a resolution to make the attempt. Captain Abraham Whipple, the Commodore of the two armed vessels in the service of this Colony, who hath been very ill, but is now upon the recovery, hath been consulted and will undertake the enterprise as soon as his health will permit. He is deemed the most suitable person to conduct it that we have. He requests your Excellency to give him a line under your hand assuring the people of Bermuda that, in case of their assistance, you will recommend it to the Continental Congress, to permit them to fetch provisions for the use of the Island. He does not propose to make any use of it, unless he shall find it utterly impracticable to obtain the powder without their assistance. I am &c.

Nich's Cooke

1. *Collections Rhode Island Historical Society*, VI, 123, 124.MATTHEW GRISWOLD TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Sr

Lyme Sept 2nd 1775

The Danger of being Robd of our Stock on the Sea Coast near the Mouth of Connectt River has Induced the People of that Neighbourhood to keep a Watch for some time to prevent that Mischeif but as few People live Near the place of Danger it is found greatly Inconvenient to call People some ab the Distance of 5 or 6 miles to attend that Service, which wee have been oblidgd to do: Many at present seem to groan under the Burden. I am Desired by Sundry of the Select men & Civil authority of this Town (all indeed who are present) to Request that your Hon'r woud please to order & Direct that Some of the Souldiers at New London: might at present be Stationd at Black Point about:6:or:7:Miles from New London:& another Small Party Near Connett River on the East side: With Submission to your Hon'rs better Judgement I apprehend if the Party near Connectt River shoud Consist of about 12:men: 3 or 4 to watch at a time might be suffict to give the alarm: and give timely assistance to the People to Remove themselves & Stock out of the way of Danger: Such a Small Number might be taken into the few Houses there without much Trouble: The number on Black Point I Shod think ought to be greater as the access to that place is easier deep water near the Shore The point long & narrow and So Situated as earlier to Discover the approach of any Ship towards New London in the way they woud undoubtedly go: — & not so far Distant but that they might afford timely assistance & Serve New London to better purpose Than if they were actually on the spot Our People Esteem it

a Hardship to be obligd to travell watch and Do the Service The Souldirs are paid for: I dont Doubt but your Honr will do Justice in the affair: --
I am with great Esteem [&c.]

M: Gr -

1. YUL. On loan from Wolcott G. Lane.

COMMITTEE OF SUFFOLK, CONNECTICUT, IN ACCOUNT WITH WILLIAM ELLIOTT ¹

1775	The Committee of Suffolk to William Elliott	Dr
Sept 2	To Boating from Isle wight to Long Island	
	71 Head of Cattle to New London	
	6 Head of Ditto	
	is 77 Head	
	180/	
	Contents Recd of Thos Mumford	William Elliott
		£ 9 0 0

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

PETER VANDERVOORT TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. ¹

[Extract] Saturday Eveng N York Sept 2, 1775

I have yours of the 31st ulto p [Richard] Spink, the Contents of wch I have made Publick & much alarms us, yours was the first Accot we had, of the Cruelty of the Hostil Attack of part of the British Navey on the Defenceless Town of Stoningtown - this Conduct in firing on defenceless towns is a Dishoner to Briton, I hope your People will take Warning & Remove the Women & Effects, & let the men Stand their ground, we laid our hands to the plow & dont lets look back & Settle Matters half Way . . . if we only Stand our ground & be firm we have nothing to fear & we shall be able to hand to Posterty what our Ansesters handed to us - nothing New here—

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Sabbati 4 HO. P.M. Sept. 2d, 1775

Ordered, That Mr. Sears be and he is hereby desired to consult with Col. [John] Lasher, with respect to seizing and taking the sloop (and people on board) charged with having supplied necessities for the use of the army and navy, and now lying at anchor near the *Asia* ship of war.

1. *N.Y. Prov. Cong.*, I, 134-135.

MINUTES OF PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, September 2, 1775

Mr. Robert Morris is desired to pay to Capt. [George] Ord & Mr. George Thompson at the rate of fifteen Pounds per hundred for Powder they imported, and at the rate of four Pounds per hundred more, as an encouragement for the importation of Gunpowder, which encouragement is agreeable to a Resolve of the Committee for the City and Liberties.

Resolved, That Mr. Thomas Houston be appointed a Lieutenant on Board one of the Armed Boats.

1. *Pa. Col. Rec.*, X, 330.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

Septemr 1775 Elizabeth River [Virginia]

Saturday 2 at 8 A M Struck Yards & Topmasts at 9 carried out our small Bower to the S E. at 10 our Best Bower came home and we swung on shore. at 11 carried out the Sheet Anchor to the N E and hove her off again. In the Gale the *Liberty* Tender was cast away in Back River. The Inhabitants of Hampton robbed her of the Kings Stores & set her on fire at 5 PM the *Mercury* drove on shore.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

MASTER'S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Mercury* ¹

Sepr 1775 Remarks On Bd His Majys Ship *Mercury* [off Norfolk]

Saturday 2d. Middl [part] Fresh Gales and Squaly W[eathe]r Lattr Strong gales and Squaley with Constant rain at ½ past nine [A.M.] Bitted the Sheet Cable with a Range Struck Top Gallt Masts and Loward the lower Yards Violent hard Squalls with heavy Rain at ½ past Noon the Ship brought home the best B[owe]r Anchor and Drove into 2½ fatham water, got the Messenger to the Smal B[owe]r and hove the Ship into the Stream Got the Top Gallt Masts Down on Deck and Struck the Top Masts, got the lower Yards fore and Aft and Made all as Snugg as possible Strong gales with Verry heavey Squals & Rain at 5 found the Ship Drove let go the Sheet Anchor but the Ship Not bringing up Drove on Shore on Portsmouth Point got Som of the guns over on the Starbord Side to heel the Ship into the Bank at 8 hove up the Sheet Anchor and it being high water began to heave on the Small Bower to heave the Ship off the Ground but the Violence of the wind continuing, and The Sea breaking over the Ship prevented her getting off, got Som Moor of the guns over on the Starbord Side, Hoisted the Longboat up in the Starbord Yard Takles to keep the Ship with the heel in to the Bank Stove Started and hove over board into the Sea and was unavoidably Lost all the Middle Tier of water the following Provisions, Casks and Iron Hoops in Order to Lighten the Ship She being in great Danger, (Viz.) Bread Twenty Baggs Containing two Thousand one hundred pounds – Beer thirten punchions Containing Nine hundred and Thirty Galls with one hundred & Four Iron hoops – Rum Three punchions Containing two hundred and Sixten Gallons

with Twenty Four Iron Hoops – Beef one Harnass Cask being a punchion with Eight Iron Hoops and Contained one hundred and thirty one peices pork one Harnass Cask being a punchion with Eight Iron Hoops and Contained Two hundred and Three peices. Butter Eight Firkens Containing Six hundred and Twenty pounds, – Cask Punchions with Eight Iron Hoops each Nine Tons Hogsheads with Eight Iron Hoops each Eight Tuns Barrals with Eight Iron Hoops each Twelve Tuns – Loos[e] Iron Hoops Two hundred and Seven, From Eight to twelve Do Weather at Low water had but Three feet water the Insid of the Ship,

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1866.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1775

Williamsburg, September 2.

Major [Robert] Rogers arrived at Norfolk a few days ago; he came passenger in a snow from London, belonging to Baltimore, with 58 passengers on board, in great distress for want of provisions. The Major was put on shore in Accomack, to get some necessaries, but the wind proving unfavourable, the boat could not return to the vessel. It is imagined the snow will put into Philadelphia, as the wind was fair and blew hard.

The snow *Unicorn*, Hutchinson, belonging to Mr. Martin, of Whitehaven, which brought in the rigging for the new ship *Eilbeck*, is one of the vessels taken up for Government service, and not Mr. Barraud's brig, she being bound for Glasgow, with a load of wheat.

ALEXANDER INNES, SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR WILLIAM CAMPBELL, TO HENRY LAURENS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Sir – Charles Town 2d Janry [September] 1775 ²

I beg leave by your means to acquaint the Committee that as I have submitted to be their prisoner to avoid all possibility of giving them offence I have order'd those few arms I possess (which are only such as Gentlemen generally have to protect them from Insult) on board the *Tamar*. –

If I have acted in this matter differently from any other Gentleman it does not proceed from the least wish to appear singular but from a persuasion that our bases are totally different.

I will not detain you any longer Sir on this very trifling subject, I shall only add that concessions which cannot be submitted to with honor, the Committee will I dare say think it below them to insist on.

I am Sir [&c.]

Alex: Innes

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, I, 194, 195.

2. This letter is misdated, or the transcriber for the magazine misread "Sepr" for "Janry." Innes fled on board the *Tamer* on Sept. 6, 1775, the day before the arrival of the *Cherokee* (see his letter of Oct. 15, 1775 to W Penman). This letter, therefore, was probably written a few days before his flight, or logically, Sept. 2.

GEORGE JAMES BRUERE, GOVERNOR OF BERMUDA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

No 23

Bermuda 2d of Septemr. 1775

My Lord My former letters will inform your Lordship of the Powder Magazine being broke into, and most Violently, and audaciously forced open, in the night of the 14th of August, when most of the Gentlemen of the assembly were come to Town, agreeable to the last Adjournment. The above Villanous Scheme was Effected when least expected.

I have repeatedly Represented the Necessity and want of some Soldiers here, or a Sloop of War, but never expected that I should have so great Cause of Complaint as the above mentioned most Villanous Crime hath now Shewn.

The Civil officers of Government here, are very few, and those generally put in to office without any Recommendation from the Governor, and are dispersed in the Country.

Many People here practice a most Scandalous Calling and that is, by taking their Vessels Yearly & Constantly under pretence of going to Turks Islands for Salt, they go to a place they call the Cacoses, or a bunch of small Islands, Rocks or Sandy Banks, and there lye for months, upon the Watch for Ships or Vessels of any Nation, that may have the Misfortune to be cast on the Banks and Rocks there; when they themselves by Constant Practice, and use to the place, are so good Pilots as to escape all danger themselves.

This practice must of course make the People, and their Negroes that use it, most ferocious and Accustome their Negroes to plunder, and to be public, as well as private thieves. And Your Lordship must remember, how I reported the[y] had Pumps and Rigging of a fine Ship from Ireland Cutt away and Carried off, and the Hulk of the Ship being gott off, and towed into Harbour is now sold and Repairing.² If they have no Success at the Cacoses, by that Scandalous practice, they go to Turks Islands, take in some Salt and Passengers, and return home And such as do not follow this practice, go to the West Indies, from Island to Island, Searching for freight and visit all the Islands, belonging to foreign Powers, such as St. Eustatious, Curaco, Senta Cruz, St Thomas &c &c.

Their Sloops or Brigantines crew are generally as follows. The Person that may be Part owner for a Captain or rather Director, the Mate doing the Duty as Captain, or rather Swearing Master, the rest all Negroes then in Case any thing of Contraband Goods is to be taken in, or discharged, the Swearing Captain may step aside, and the Negroes and their leader Complete the Business.

And by this practice of imploying a Number of Negroes Great Britain loseth the Nursery of White Sailors and their Mal Practices are easily carried on.

Besides the Carpenters, Masons, Blacksmiths, and Ship Carpenters are almost all Negroes. And the White People presume to be Gentlemen.

I shall likewise Recommend to His Majesty once more that it is as necessary that there should be one company of Soldiers quartered at the West end of these Islands, in Barracks Seperate from the People, and another Company at the East end, distributed in the Castle, fort and fortifications here, and likewise the frigates of War passing and repassing, to and from the West Indies, to Call as oportunity may offer which they may do with the greatest Safety, if our Pilots will look out for

their arrival properly. And Sir Richard Bickerton can give Your Lordship farther information if You please to Shew Him this letter, in respect to the Situation or Navigation to Bermuda. My Lord since Delegates have been chose here, and the Congress at Philadelphia Petitioned under pretence that they might want Provisions, notwithstanding they had at that time more than they could either purchase or consume in Six or 8 Months, it is much to be feared, that the Inhabitants either of Philadelphia or South Carolina, might be encouraged to come here, and taken the Powder, and leave Bread, flour, or Rice in lieu.

Since these Delegates have been Appointed, at first at the Sudden Instigation of a few, there seems to be but very few friends to Government. And our Sloops may be imployed against His Majestys Troops, or good Subjects next, or the Cannon taken away.

I don't as yet know how I shall get this letter Conveyed to Your Lordship, as they have prevented any Person from hiring or chartering their Vessel to Me, either to send to Boston or anywhere else.

I am in very great Grief and Anxiety My Lord, for in the Rebels News papers, altho' very erroneous, and many falsehoods in them, both my Sons, very promising Youths, are Said to be Killed, and I know nothing to the Contrary.

I have the Honor to be My Lord [&c.]

George Ja^s Bruere

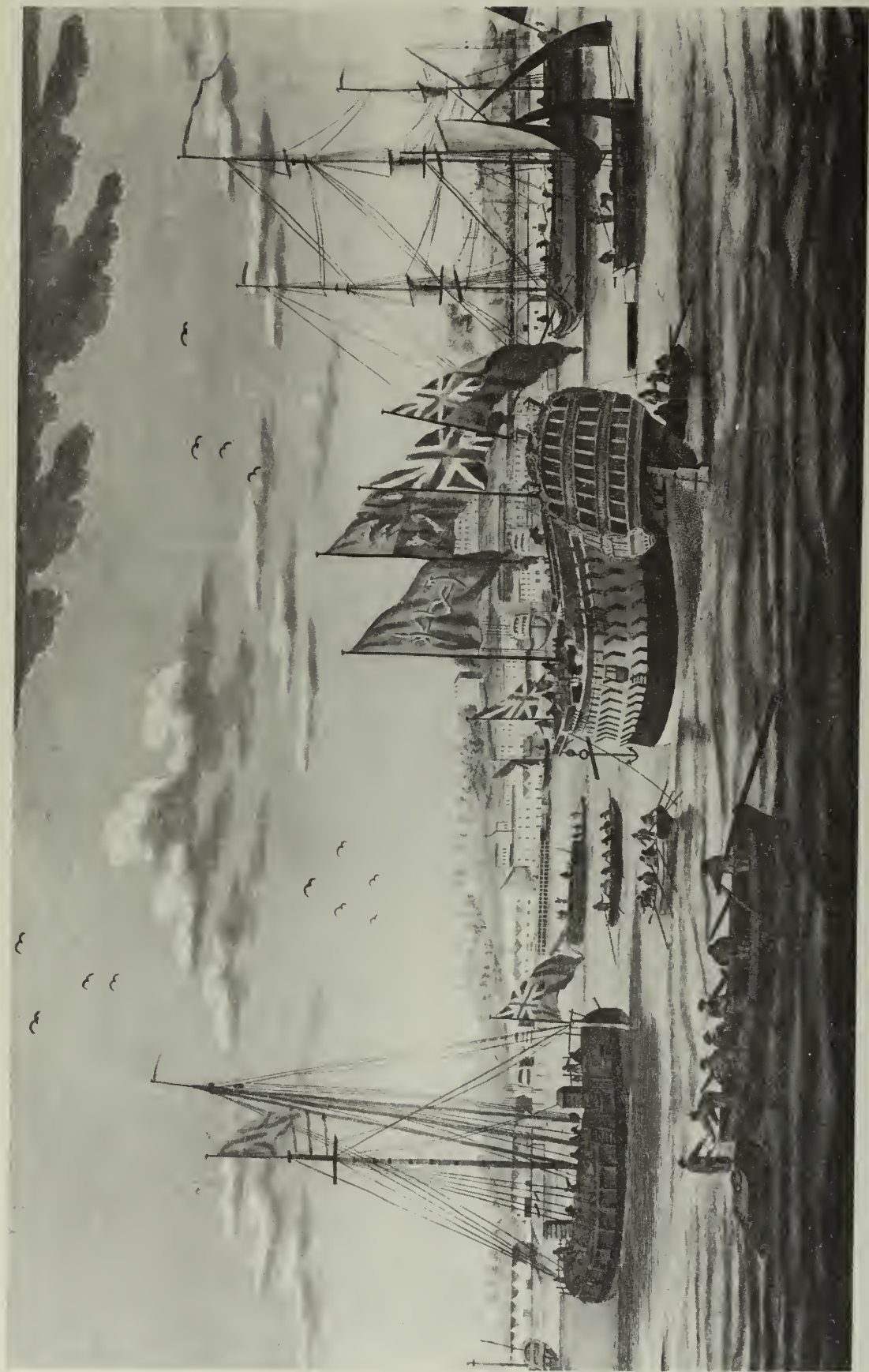
1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 37/36, 808.

2. *Ibid.* The ship *Industry*, which was wrecked off Bermuda in late August or September 1774, and which is described in a letter from Bruere to Dartmouth, dated January 24, 1775.



EUROPEAN THEATRE

From June 29, 1775, to Aug. 9, 1775



Chatham Dockyard, England, 1772.

EUROPEAN THEATRE

From June 29, 1775, to August 9, 1775

SUMMARY

Even the news of Lexington had not aroused George III or his Ministers to the seriousness of the revolt in the American colonies. Were not three major generals and three more regiments of infantry already on the high seas to reinforce Thomas Gage's force? And had not the Admiralty been ordered to augment Samuel Graves's squadron by such a number of frigates as would suffice to secure obedience to the Restrictive Acts recently enacted, and prevent succour from the Southern colonies reaching New England? Here seemed little doubt in the British mind that with "One tolerable Drubbing," rebel resistance would collapse. Warnings from Whig leaders that conquest would not be so simple, and that possible loss of the American colonies would leave the Empire an easy prey to revengeful France, were discounted as political clap-trap. France was in no position to capitalize upon the American troubles, and her partner, Spain, engrossed in the Mediterranean, could be discounted entirely. So thought the Ministry.

As far as concerned Spain, this conclusion was justified. Charles III had spared no pains to let the world know that he was preparing to annihilate the Barbary pirates. At Alicante by mid-June he had gathered an imposing armada – fifty-one fighting ships, including six ships of the line – and three hundred and forty-four transports to convey thirty thousand men to the conquest of Algiers. This great force would sail before the month of June was ended.

Not so with France! In April, 1775, with the approval of the French Court, a keen observer had spent three weeks in London studying the American situation. He was Caron de Beaumarchais, courtier, composer and adventurer, who, upon his return to Paris informed Louis XVI that "I am in a position to give the soundest information on the action of the English Government regarding the English colonies and the effects of the upheaval in the Colonies on England; on what must be the consequences of one and the other; on the supreme importance of these events to French interests; on what we have to hope or fear for our sugar islands; on what can give us peace or bring about war." That information was imparted to M. de Vergennes, who sent Beaumarchais back to London with the injunction to continue his observations and report again in July.

29 June

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY]
DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA"¹

[1775]
29th [June] – The Kings pleasure was signified by Lord Dartmouth for 2. Vessels to be taken up to carry Arms, Cloathing and Military-Stores to Virginia and Quebec, And Orders were given next day accordingly.

N. B.

In consequence of the above the *Maria* storeship was taken up for Virginia, & the *Jacob* for Quebec, the first of which went out under the Convoy of the *Liverpool*, and the other under that of the *Lizard*.

The *Elizabeth* Storeship was afterwards taken up to carry such of the Arms &c. as the *Jacob* could not receive, and sailed without Convoy; soon after which 3 of the Ships going to Boston were order'd if they fell in with her to see her safely into the River St Lawrence.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

JOHN POWNALL, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE, TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY
OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY¹

Sir,

Whitehall, 29 June 1775

I am directed by Lord Dartmouth to desire you will acquaint me for his Lordship's information, what steps have been taken for augmenting the Squadron under the command of Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves, pursuant to His Majesty's Pleasure signified to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty in Lord Dartmouth's Letter of the 17th Instant.

I am &ca

J. Pownall

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL¹

Sr

Admiralty Office 29th June 1775

In return to your Letter of this date, desiring to be acquainted, for the Earl of Dartmouth's information, what Steps have been taken for augmenting the Squadron under the Command of Vice Adml Graves, pursuant to his Majesty's Pleasure signified to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty in Lord Dartmouth's Letter of the 17th Instant, I am to acquaint you, that their Lordships gave immediate directions for fitting out, with the utmost expedition, the five Frigats mentioned on the other side in order to be sent out to Boston as soon as possibly may be.

I am Sir [&c.]

Php. Stephens

[Verso]

	Guns	
<i>Milford</i>	28	at Chatham
<i>Solebay</i>	28	at Plymouth
<i>Lizard</i>	28	at Portsmouth
<i>Actaeon</i>	28	at Woolwich ²

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

2. Although Stephens's letter says five frigates, only four are listed

EDWARD MONTAGU, LORD SANDWICH, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

My Dear Lord

Plymouth June 29, 1775

Not having heard, or imagining that there will be any alteration in the measures relative to North America, I have written a letter to Mr [Philip] Stephens which I have desired him to communicate to your Lordship, directing some farther reinforcements which are pointed out by Admiral [Samuel] Graves as Necessary; and which if approved by your Lordship & the rest of His Majesty's confidential Servants, should be immediately carried into execution in my opinion.

I have the honour to be [&c.]

Sandwich

[Endorsed] Plymouth June 29, 1775 Ld Sandwich/R/June 30th 1775

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM LORD SANDWICH, TO MR STEPHENS, DATED
PLYMOUTH 29TH JUNE 1775" ¹

Hessom arrived here this Mornng and I now redispach him with Answers to such Parts of the Letters you have sent me, as require Measures to be immediately taken upon them.

Sir H[ugh] Palliser & I are of Opinion that in consequence of Adml [Samuel] Graves's Wish to have more Boats, the Navy Board should be directed to supply each Ship for America with a Cutter on [or] Yawl above the Established Number; and to send 20 Cutters by the first Transports that go to America, to be delivered to the Storekeeper at Boston, to be disposed of as Adml Graves shall direct. Also to prepare an additional Assortment of Stores to be immediately sent to Halifax, suitable to the Ships employed in America.

Admiral Graves should be told that his Idea of putting additional Marines into the Schooners & Small Vessels, is in our Opinion very proper; but as that we have none to spare as yet from hence, he must lend them from the Compliments of the Ships now with him, and he may depend upon it, that all the Ships that are coming out to him shall bring as many supernumerary Marines as we can possibly get; but he should at the same time be told, that he must not break into the Marine Battallions on Shore.

As Adml Graves mentions his Wish to have some 50 Gunships, and gives very substantial Reasons in my Opinion for such a Requisition,² which it is

hoped would enable him to send home the three Guard ships, which should not be withdrawn from the defence of this Country but in a Case of Necessity; we think it advisable that the *Experiment* a small 50 Gunship, & the *Phoenix* & *Roebuck* of 44 Guns (which will answer the same purpose) be immediately commissioned; but upon this point you will ask Lord Dartmouth, to whom I have now written, & to whom you will communicate everything in this Letter that relates to America, whether he approves of this additional Reinforcement, before you lay the Commissions before the Admiralty, and send the proper Orders to the Navy Board.

[Endorsed] Ext. of Letter from/ Lord Sandwich to/ Mr Stephens, dated/ Plymouth 20th June 1775/ In Mr Stephens's Letter/ to J. P. of 1st July 1775.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

2. Graves's requests were contained in his letters to the Admiralty of May 18-19, 1775.

1 July

KING GEORGE III TO LORD SANDWICH ¹

[Extract]

Kew, 1st July 1775.

Lord Sandwich – Your letter accompanying those received from Major Pitcairn is just arrived: that officer's conduct seems highly praiseworthy. I am of his opinion that when once those rebels have felt a smart blow, they will submit; and no situation can ever change my fixed resolution, either to bring the colonies to a due obedience to the legislature of the mother country or to cast them off!

The admiral's dispatches convince me that 50-gun ships would be more fit for that service than the larger ones: I have therefore proposed that the three guardships should be recalled, and the fleet in America strengthened by fitting out six ships of fifty guns. I have observed to Lord North that this equipment will require the raising all the men necessary to man those ships, for that you cannot from any of the ships in commission furnish a single man.

1. Barnes and Owen, eds., *Sandwich Papers*, I, 63.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

[Extract]

Whitehall 1st July 1775

(No 21) On the 10th of last Month in the Morning, Lieut Nunn arrived at my Office with your dispatch containing an Account of the Transaction on the 19th of April, of which the public had before received Intelligence by a Schooner, to all Appearance, sent by the Enemies of Govt on purpose to make an Impression here, by representing the Affair between the King's Troops & the Rebel Provincials in a light the most favorable to their own Views.

Their Industry on this Occasion had its Effect, in leaving for some days a false Impression upon Peoples Minds; and I mention it to you with a Hope that, in any future Event of Importance, it will be thought proper, both by yourself and the Admiral, to send your Dispatches by one of the light Vessels of the Fleet

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/92.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir,

[Admiralty Office] 1st July 1775

The Lords Commissrs of His Majts Treasury having transmitted to my Lords Commissrs of the Admty an Extract of a Letter from the Collector & Comptroller of the Customs at Rhode Island to the Commissrs of the Customs in America, relative to the introduction of Military Stores from Holland or St Eustatia; and offering their Opinion that no check can possibly be put thereto, but by an Armed Vessel being placed in each of the Channels leading to Providence; I am commanded by their Lordships to send you herewith a Copy of the said Paper, and to recommend it to you to take such steps as shall appear to you the most effectual for preventing the introduction of Guns, Powder or Military Stores to Rhode Island. I am &c

Ph^p Stephens(By the *Raven* at Spithead.)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 467, NYHS Transcript.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY ¹

Whitehall July 1st. 1775

My Lords The King having received Advices that not only the 4 New England Governments are in open and actual Rebellion, & that the People have been daring enough, amongst other Acts of Hostility to make Seizures of several Vessels, and to send the Crews to Prison, but also that the Flame has extended itself to most of the other Colonies, in which the greatest Violences have been committed, the Constitutional Authority of Government trampled upon, & the People armed & arrayed with an avowed Intention of Resistance by force to the Measures His Majesty has ordered to be pursued for restoring the public Peace and for protecting the Commerce of His Subjects, it is His Majesty's firm Resolution of which I am directed to acquaint your Lordships, that every measure be pursued for suppressing, by the most vigorous Efforts, by Sea and Land, this unnatural Rebellion which menaces the Subversion of the present happy Constitution. To this end it is His Majesty's Pleasure that the Admiral commanding upon the Boston Station, do carry on such Operations upon the Sea Coasts of the 4 Governments in New England as he shall judge most effectual for suppressing in Conjunction with His Majesty's Land Forces, the Rebellion which is now openly avowed and supported in those Colonies, and that he do seize and detain, untill His Majesty's pleasure be known, all Ships & Vessels belonging to the Inhabitants of those Colonies, such only excepted as he shall find upon good Evidence and Information to be bona fide the sole property of persons who have been in no shape concerned in the Rebellious Proceedings within those Colonies and have given Proof of their attachment to the Constitution by refusing to concur in the unwarrantable Measures which have been adopted to subvert it. —

It is His Majesty's further pleasure that the utmost Expedition should be used for sending out the four Frigates now preparing in Consequence of my Letter to your Lordships of the 17 Ult^o & that Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves

be instructed to make such a disposition of his Fleet as that, without crippling the Force necessary for the Service upon the Station where he commands in Person, a small detached Squadron under the Command of an able and discreet Officer, may be stationed at each of the following places Vizt at New York, in Delawar Bay, in Chesapeak Bay and within the Bar of Charles-Town, the Commanders of which Squadrons are to be instructed to do all that in them lays to prevent any Commerce between the Colonies of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland and the Carolinas, and any other places than Great Britain, Ireland, or His Majesty's Islands in the West Indies, including the Bermuda & Bahama Islands; to search every Vessel going into & coming out of any of the Ports of those Colonies, and to seize & detain them in every case in which they shall make any discovery of Contraband Trade, or Conveyance of Arms & Ammunition or military Stores of any kind. —

It is His Majesty's further pleasure that the Commanders of those detached Squadrons should be instructed to receive on board His Majesty's Ships and to afford every reasonable accommodation to the Governors, or other Officers of the Colonies within their respective Stations who may be compelled by the Violence of the People to seek such an Asylum, and generally to afford every protection in their Power to any of His Majesty's Subjects who may require it, and further that the said Commanders do cause it to be publickly signified in all such Sea port Towns as are accessible to the King's Ships, that if any Violences shall hereafter be offered therein to any Officers of the Crown, or other peaceably disposed Subjects to His Majesty or if any Bodies of Men shall be raised and armed in the said Towns, or any Military works erected, otherwise than by order of His Majesty, or those acting under His Majesty's Authority, or if any attempts shall be made to seize or destroy any public Magazines of Arms, Ammunition, or other Stores, it will be the Duty of such Commander to proceed by the most vigorous Efforts, against the said Town, as in open Rebellion against the King; and it is His Majesty's Pleasure, that the Commander of each Squadron be further instructed, that if, after such Signification, any Town shall persist in the rebellious Acts above stated, he do proceed accordingly.

What further may be necessary must depend upon the Activity and Discretion of the Admiral, and of the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships in Events as they shall arise, And I have only to add that it is His Majesty's Pleasure that Your Lordships do lose no time in transmitting to Vice Admiral Graves such Instructions as shall correspond with the Directions contained in this Letter, giving him ground to expect that a further Augmentation, over and above the four Frgates, will be sent to him as soon as His Majesty's Service will permit.

I am &ca

Dartmouth

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE ¹

Dr. Sir I have just now received the enclosed from my Lord Sandwich ² by a Messenger, & am to beg you will lay it before my Lord Dartmh & favor me with

his Lordships Sentiments thereupon – I shall be in Town early on Monday morning, or sooner if I learn from you that it is necessary – I am ever Dr Sir [&c.]

Ph^p Stephens

Admiralty 1 July 1775 near 3 o'clock

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

2. Extract of Lord Sandwich's letter of June 29, 1775.

2 July (Sunday)

JOHN POWNALL TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

[Extract]

Greenwich July 2d 1775.

The Augmentation of Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves's Squadron by an Addition of 50 Gun Ships as he proposes & which I see Lord Sandwich approves, corresponds exactly with the Wishes of the rest of the King's Servants, and Lord Dartmouth would have received The King's Pleasure upon it, with the other Matters contained in his Letter to the Lords of the Admiralty of yesterday's date, but that both he and Lord North did not think it proper to give such Orders without first consulting Lord Sandwich; His Lordship's Letter to you decides upon the Matter, and Lord Dartmouth directs me to say he entirely approves what Lord Sandwich proposes and will take The King's Pleasure for the necessary Orders as soon as possible; In the mean time you will perhaps think it advisable to press forward the Preparation.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

5 July

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA" ¹

1775. Commissioners for Victualling His Majesty's Navy were order'd to
5th July – send out 4. Months more provisions, for 6,000, Men, of all Species.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO WILLIAM TRYON, GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK ¹

[Extract]

Whitehall 5th July 1775

. . . it is the King's firm Resolution that the most vigorous efforts should be made both by Sea and Land to reduce his rebellious subjects to obedience and the proper measures are now pursuing not only for augmenting the army under General [Thomas] Gage but also for making such additions to our Naval Strength in North America as may enable Admiral [Samuel] Graves to make such a disposition of his Fleet as that besides the Squadron necessary for the New England Station there may be separate Squadrons at New York within the Bay of Delaware, in Chesapeake Bay and upon the Coast of Carolina.

After what has passed there can be no doubt what ought to be the Plan of Operations for the Squadron upon the New England Station, and I think it necessary to acquaint you, for your own information, that Admiral Graves will be instructed to exert the most vigorous efforts, for suppressing the Rebellion now

Openly avowed & supported in that Country and to seize & detain all ships and Vessels belonging to the Inhabitants thereof, such only excepted as are the property of Persons who are friends of Government & have shewn an attachment to the Constitution.

There is still some room to hope that the Colonies to the Southward may not proceed to the same lengths with those of New England, it is however His Majesty's intentions that the Commanders of the separate Squadrons I have mentioned should be instructed to prevent all Commerce between the Colonies within their respective stations and any other places than Great Britain Ireland and His Majestys Islands in the West Indies. That they should receive on Board and give protection to any officers of the Crown who may be compelled by the violence of the People to seek for such an Asylum and to proceed as in the Case of a Town in actual Rebellion against such of the sea port Towns being accessible to the Kings Ships, as shall hereafter offer any violence to the Kings officers or in which any Troops shall be raised or military works erected, other than by His Majestys authority, or any attempts made to seize or plunder any public Magazine of Arms or Ammunition

1. O'Callaghan, ed., *Colonial New York*, VIII, 591, 592.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO ROBERT EDEN, GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND ¹

(No 4:)²

Whitehall July 5th 1775.

Sir. Your brother ³ has been so obliging as to communicate to me from time to time, such Intelligence as you have transmitted to him respecting the State of affairs in Maryland, and about 10 days ago I had the Satisfaction to receive your Letter of the 5th. of May.

I sincerely wish you may not have been too sanguine in your hopes that the time is not far distant when Peace & Harmony will be restored, and Confidence re-established on a permanent Basis; At the same time I observe with Satisfaction, what you say of the Temper and Moderation of the Persons chosen to represent the Province of Maryland in the Continental Congress, & I am not without some reason to believe that there may be others in that Congress of the same Disposition.

At present however, the rebellious proceedings of the people in most of the Colonies, wear the Appearance of an actual Revolt, & it is his Majesty's firm Resolution, in consequence of the Advices which he has received, that the most vigorous Efforts should be made both by Sea and Land, to reduce his rebellious subjects to Obedience, and the proper Measures are now pursuing, not only for augmenting the Army under General [Thomas] Gage, but also for making such Addition to our Naval strength in No. America as may enable Adml. [Samuel] Graves to make such a Disposition of his Fleet as that, besides the Squadron necessary for the New England Station, there may be separate squadrons at New York, within the Bay of Delawar, in Chesapeake Bay, & upon the Coast of Carolina.

After what has passed there can be no doubt what ought to be the Plan of Operations for the Squadron upon the New England Station, & I think it necessary to acquaint You, for your own Information, that Admiral Graves will be instructed to exert the most vigorous Efforts for suppressing the Rebellion now openly avowed & supported in that Country, & to seize & detain all Ships & Vessels

belonging to the Inhabitants thereof, such only excepted as are the property of persons who are friends of Government who have shewn an Attachment to the Constitution.

There is still some room to hope that the Colonies to the Southward may not proceed to the same Lengths with those of New England: It is however, His Majesty's Intentions that the Commanders of the separate squadrons I have mentioned should be instructed to prevent all Commerce between the Colonies within their respective Stations & any other places than Great Britain, Ireland, or his Majesty's Islands in the West Indies; that they should receive on board; and give Protection to any officers of the Crown who may be compelled by the Violence of the People, to seek for such an Asylum, & to proceed, as in case of a town in actual rebellion against such of the Seaport towns, being accessible to the King's ships, as shall hereafter offer any violence to the King's officers, or in which any troops shall be raised, or Military works erected, other than by his Majesty's Authority, or any Attempts made to seize or plunder any public Magazine of Arms or Ammunition.

With regard to the Plan of operations to be adopted by General Gage, it must depend upon his own Judgment, & the opinion of the able Generals ⁴ with him; and I have only to add, that it is His Majesty's express Command that you do exert every Endeavour, & employ every Means in your power to aid & support him & Admiral Graves in all such operations as they may think proper to undertake for carrying the King's Orders into full Execution, and restoring the Authority of his Majesty's Government.

The Attention you appear to have given to the Preservation of peace & good Order in your Government, is very much approved of by the King, and I have his Majesty's Commands to assure You of his Royal Acquiescence in your wish to return to England when the State of Affairs in your Government will admit of it.

In the mean time I hope your private Affairs here will not suffer by the very honourable Resolution you have taken of remaining in Maryland so long as the present Disorders continue.

1. PRO, Colonial Office 5/1286, LC Transcript.

2. A copy of this letter was intercepted by Captain James Barron, in a Virginia armed vessel, and a copy sent to the Maryland Council of Safety in April 1776.

3. William Eden, Under Secretary of State.

4. The "able Generals" were William Howe, Henry Clinton, and John Burgoyne.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO LORD DUNMORE ¹

(no 21)

Whitehall 5th July 1775

My Lord Your Lordship's dispatches of the 1st & 15th of May have been received and laid before the King, and it is with the greatest Satisfaction that I transmit to your Lordship His Majesty's Approbation of the Spirit and Fortitude with which you resisted the Attempts to compell you by force to restore the Gunpowder which your Lordship so prudently and properly had put on board the *Fowey*.

Your Lordship's Conduct on this trying Occasion does you the greatest honor, but it is impossible to reflect upon the distress it has occasioned to Lady Dunmore & the rest of your Family without very painfull feelings.

The Madness of the People of Virginia exceeds all bounds, & leaves no room for any other Consideration than that of the means of suppressing by the most vigorous efforts a Rebellion which (united as all America is against Us) threatens to overturn the Constitution.

We have the Satisfaction to find that General [Thomas] Gage had, upon your Lordship's Application, taken Steps for giving Your Lordship every Assistance which his Situation would afford. It is upon him alone that Your Lordship must now depend for any small body of Troops, but I have not failed to take the proper measures for sending you, by a Ship that will be ready in a few days 2000 Stand of Arms and Ammunition in proportion.

I shall write more fully to Your Lordship by that Ship, in the mean time it is proper I should acquaint Your Lordship that it is the King's firm Resolution that the most vigorous Efforts should be made, both by Sea and Land, to reduce his Rebellious Subjects to Obedience, & the proper measures are now pursuing, not only for augmenting the Army under General Gage, but also for making such Addition to Our Naval Strength in No. America as may enable Admiral [Samuel] Graves to make such a disposition of his Fleet as that, besides the Squadron necessary for the New England Station, there may be separate Squadrons at New York, within the Bay of Delaware, in Chesapeake Bay, & upon the Coast of Carolina.

After what has passed there can be no doubt what ought to be the plan of Operations for the Squadron upon the New England Station, & I think it necessary to acquaint you, for your own Information, that Admiral Graves will be instructed to exert the most vigorous Efforts for suppressing the Rebellion now openly avowed & supported in that Country, & to seize and detain all Ships & Vessels belonging to the Inhabitants thereof, such only excepted as are the Property of persons who are friends of Government, & have shewn an Attachment to the Constitution.

There is still some room to hope that the Colonies to the Southward may not proceed to the same lengths with those of New England, It is however His Majesty's Intentions that the Commanders of the separate Squadrons I have mentioned should be instructed to prevent all Commerce between the Colonies within their respective Stations & any other places than Great Britain, Ireland, or His Majesty's Islands in the West Indies; That they should receive on board & give protection to, any Officers of the Crown who may be compelled by the Violence of the People to seek for such an Asylum, & to proceed, as in the case of the Town in actual Rebellion, against such of the Seaport Towns, being accessible to the King's Ships, as shall hereafter offer any Violence to the King's Officers, or in which any Troops shall be raised, or military works erected, other than by His Majesty's Authority, or any Attempts made to seize or plunder any public Magazine of Arms or Ammunition.

With regard to the Plan of Operations to be adopted by General Gage, it must depend upon his own Judgment & the Opinion of the able Generals with him, & therefore I have only to add that it is His Majesty's express Command that you do exert every Endeavour & employ every means in your power to aid & support him & Admiral Graves in all such Operations as they may think proper to

undertake for carrying the King's Orders into full Execution, and restoring the Authority of His Majesty's Government. I am &ca.

Dartmouth

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/1353, 303-310, LC Transcript.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO JOSIAH MARTIN, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA¹

Whitehall, July 5th 1775.

I shall hope to be able by a Store Ship that will sail for Virginia in a few days to write you fully upon the state of the Province under your Government and upon the variety of matters contained in your late Dispatches Nos 29, 30, 31 & 32.

In the mean time I take the chance of a Conveyance to you by the Carolina Packet, to acquaint you, that in consequence of the Advices received from all Quarters, that not only the four New England Governments are in Arms, but that almost every other Colony has caught the flame, and a spirit of Rebellion has gone forth that menaces the subversion of the Constitution, it is the King's firm resolution, that the most vigorous efforts should be made, both by sea and land to reduce his Rebellious Subjects to obedience, and the proper Measures are now pursuing not only for augmenting the Army under General [Thomas] Gage, but also for making such addition to our Naval strength in North America as may enable Admiral [Samuel] Graves to make such a Disposition of His Fleet, as that besides the Squadron necessary for the New England Station, there may be separate Squadrons at New York, within the Bay of Delaware, in Chesapeake Bay, and upon the Coast of Carolina.

After what has passed there can be no doubt what ought to be the plan of operations for the Squadron upon the New England Station and I think it necessary to acquaint you, for your own Information, that Admiral Graves will be instructed to exert the most vigorous efforts for suppressing the Rebellion now openly avowed and supported in that Country, and to seize and detain all Ships and Vessels belonging to the Inhabitants thereof, such only excepted as are the Property of Persons who are Friends of Government and have shewn an Attachment to the Constitution.

There is still some room to hope that the Colonies to the Southward may not proceed to the same lengths with those of New England, it is however His Majesty's Intention, that the Commander of the separate Squadrons I have mentioned should be instructed to prevent all Commerce between the Colonies within their respective stations, and any other Places than Great Britain Ireland and His Majesty's Islands in the West Indies, that they should receive on Board and give protection to any officers of the Crown, who may be compelled by the violence of the People, to seek for such an Assylum, and to proceed as in the case of a Town in actual Rebellion against such of the Seaport Towns being accessible to the King's Ships, as shall hereafter offer any violence to the King's officers, or in which any Troops shall be raised or Military Works erected other than by His Majesty's Authority or any attempt made to seize or plunder any public Magazines of Arms or Ammunition. With regard to the plan of opera-

tions to be adopted by General Gage, it must depend upon his own Judgment, and the opinion of the able Generals with him, and therefore I have only to add, that it is His Majesty's express Command, that you do exert every Endeavour, and employ every means in your power to aid and support him and Admiral Graves, in all such operations as they may think proper to undertake for carrying the King's orders into full execution, and restoring the Authority of His Majesty's Government.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 66-68.

6 July

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA" ¹

[1775] Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves was directed in pursuance of the Kings
6th July pleasure signified by the Earl of Dartmouth in his Letter of the 1st to carry on such Operations upon the Coasts of the four New England Governments as he should judge most effectual for supressing, in conjunction with His Majesty's Land Forces, the Rebellion which is openly avow'd and supported in those Colonies and to seize and detain till His Majesty's pleasure should be known all Ships & Vessels belonging to the Inhabitants of these Colonies such only excepted as should be found upon good Evidence and Information, to be, bona fide, the sole Property of Persons who have been in no shape concerned in the Rebellious proceedings in those Colonies, &c.

To make such a Disposition of his Fleet as that, without crippling the Force upon the Station where he commands in Person a small detached Squadron under an able and discreet Officer, might be station'd (and to station the same accordingly) at each of the following places Vizt New York, in Delawar Bay, in Chesapeak Bay, and within the Bar of Charles Town; giving the Commanders of such Squadrons Instructions to do all that in them lies to prevent any Commerce between the Colonies of New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania, Virginia, Maryland, the Carolina's and any other Places than Great Britain or Ireland or His Majesty's Islands in the west Indies including the Bermuda & Bahama Islands; to search every Vessel going into, and coming out of, the Ports of those Colonies & to seize and detain them in every case in which they shall make discovery of contraband Trade or Conveyance of Arms, Ammunition or Military Stores of any kind; to receive on board the King's Ships, and afford every reasonable accommodation to, the Governors, or other Officers of the Colonies within their respective Stations who may be compelled by the Violences of the People to seek such an Asylum; and generally to afford every protection in their Power to any of His Majesty's Subjects who may require it, And further,

To cause it to be publicly signified in all such Sea Port Towns as are accessible to the King's Ships that if any violences shall hereafter be

8



April 1. 1775

1. One String Jack. Deliver your Property.
2. Began Just so en. France } Accomplished
3. Led Drum }
4. I gave you that man's money for my use

Price 6

5. I will not be Robbed
6. I shall be wounded with you
7. I am Blinded
8. The English, Roman Catholic Town of Quebec
9. The English, Protestant Town of Boston

The Big Republic
for Others

offered therein, to any of the Officers of the Crown or other peaceably disposed Subjects to His Majesty, or if any Bodies of Men shall be raised & armed in the said Towns or any Military Works erected otherwise than by order to His Majesty, or those acting under His Authority, or if any attempts shall be made to seize or destroy any public Magazines of Arms, Ammunition or other Stores, it will be the duty of such Commander to proceed by the most vigorous Efforts against the said Town: as in open Rebellion against the King; And, if after such signification any Town shall persist in the Rebellious Acts above stated, such Commander is to proceed accordingly.—

N. B.

The above Order was sent by the *Raven* Sloop.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

By &ca

The King having received Advices that not only the Four New England Governments are in open & actual Rebellion & that the People have been daring enough, amongst other Acts of Hostility, to make Seizures of several Vessels and to send the Crews to Prison, but also that the Flame has extended itself to most of the other Colonies, in which the greatest Violences have been committed, the Constitutional Authority of Government trampled upon, and the People armed and arrayed with an avowed Intention of Resistance, by Force, to the Measures His Majesty has ordered to be pursued for restoring the Public Peace, and for protecting the Commerce of His Subjects; And it being His Majesty's firm Resolution that every measure be pursued for suppressing by the most vigorous Efforts by Sea & Land, this unnatural Rebellion, which menaces the subversion of the present happy Constitution; You are therefore, in pursuance of His Majesty's Pleasure signified to us by the Earl of Dartmouth, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, in his Letter of the 1st Instant, hereby required & directed to carry on such Operations upon the Sea Coasts of the Four Governments in New England, as you shall judge most effectual for suppressing, in conjunction with His Majesty's Land Forces, the Rebellion which is now openly avowed & supported in those Colonies, and to seize & detain, until His Majesty's Pleasure be known, all Ships & Vessels belonging to the Inhabitants of those Colonies, such only excepted as you shall find, upon good Evidence & Information, to be bona fide the sole property of Persons who have been in no shape concerned in the Rebellious proceedings within those Colonies, and have given proof of their Attachment to the Constitution by refusing to concur in the unwarrantable measures which have been adopted to subvert it; And, in pursuance of His Majesty's further Pleasure signified as aforesaid, You are to make such a disposition of your Fleet as that, without crippling the Force necessary for the Service upon the Station where you Command in person, a small detached Squadron, under the Com-

mand of an Able & discreet Officer, may be stationed (and to station the same accordingly) at each of the following Places, Vizt at New York, In Delawar Bay, In Chesapeak Bay, And within the Bar of Charles Town; giving the Commanders of such Squadrons Instructions to do all that in them lies to prevent any Commerce between the Colonies of New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania, Virginia, Maryland & the Carolinas, and any other Places than Great Britain, Ireland, or His Majesty's Islands in the West Indies, including the Bermuda & Bahama Islands; To search every Vessel going into, and coming out of, any of the Ports of those Colonies, & to seize and detain them in every case in which they shall make any discovery of Contraband Trade, or Conveyance of Arms and Ammunition or Military Stores of any kind; To receive on board His Majesty's Ships, & to afford every reasonable accommodation to, the Governors or other Officers of the Colonies within their respective Stations, who may be compelled by the Violences of the People to seek such an Asylum, & generally to afford every protection in their power to any of His Majesty's Subjects who may require it; And further to cause it to be publicly signified, in all such Sea Port Towns as are accessible to the King's Ships, that if any Violences shall hereafter be offered therein to Any of the Officers of the Crown or other peacably disposed Subjects to His Majesty, or if any Bodies of Men shall be raised & armed in the said Towns, or any Military Works erected otherwise than by Order of His Majesty or those acting under His Authority, or if any Attempts shall be made to seize or destroy any public Magazines of Arms, Ammunition, or other Stores, it will be the duty of such Commander to proceed, by the most vigorous efforts, against the said Town, as in open Rebellion against the King: And you are further to instruct the Commander of each of the said Squadrons that if, after such signification, any Town shall persist in the Rebellious Acts above stated, he do proceed accordingly.

Guns
 50 *Experiment*
 44 *Phoenix*
 44 *Roebuck*

What further may be necessary must depend upon the Activity and discretion of yourself & the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships in Events as they shall arise in carrying on the above important Services; the better to enable you to perform which, as well as the others entrusted to your care. We have ordered the three Ships named in the Margin to be fitted out, in addition to the four Frigates mentioned in our Secretary's Letter to you of the 24th Ultimo, and shall send them to join you at Boston with all possible dispatch.

Given &ca the 6th of July 1775.

Palmerston
 C. Spencer
 H. Palliser.

To Samuel Graves Esqr Vice Admiral of the White, & Commander in Chief of His Majts Ships & Vessels in North America. at Boston.

By &ca P.S. Sent by the *Raven* Sloop

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, NYHS Transcript.

PHILIP STEPHENS, TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 6th July 1775

Soon after I had dispatched to you by the *Viper* instead of the *Raven* Sloop, my Letter of the 24h. ultimo, I received by Lieutenant Merrick and immediately communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letters of the 13th, 14th, 15th, 18th, 19th & 25th of May, giving an Account of the Rebellious Behaviour of His Majesty's American Subjects in several of the Colonies and of your proceedings since the 23d of April, Copies of all which have been sent to the Earl of Dartmouth for His Majesty's Information.

Their Lordships approve of your hiring Advice Boats to carry Dispatches to the King's Ships and Towns in the other Colonies as all communication by Land is stopt or at least very precarious.

The reasons you have given for desiring to have a few of the old 50 Gun Ships sent out to you are very substantial and as their Lordships, think that the *Experiment* a 50 Gun Ship built upon a new principle and of less burthen than any which have been built these many Years, and the *Phoenix* and *Roebuck* of 44 Guns, will answer the purpose to the full as well, and can be got ready much Sooner, they have ordered them to be fitted out and will send them to join you at Boston as soon as possible, which additional Reinforcement it is hoped will enable you to send home the three Guardships which should not but in a case of necessity be withdrawn from the defence of this Country; But as I said in my last this is a point that is left to your discretion according as the necessity of the times and the Service may require, and of which their Lordships wish to have your opinion by the very first conveyance that offers.

Their Lordships have in compliance with your request ordered the *Raven* Sloop to be supplied with an additional Boat, and will give the like directions for all other Ships that are going to you, as well as for sending some spare Boats to you by all opportunities that offer.

Your idea of putting small Detachments of Marines into the Schooners and small Vessels is in their Lordships opinion very proper; but as they cannot at present be spared from hence, Their Lordships recommend it to you to lend them from the Complements of the Ships now with you, and command me to acquaint you that you may depend upon receiving by every Ship coming out to you as many Supernumerary Marines as can possibly be got, which, from the number of Recruiting Parties that are now sent out, it is hoped will be sufficient to answer all your demands. But in all Events their Lordships command me to add you must not break into the Marine Battallions employed on shore.

Their Lordships have directed the Navy Board to send to Halifax immediately, such an assortment of Stores as may be necessary and proper for the use of the Squadron under your Command And as they do not think it safe to rely wholly upon the Contracts that have been made for supplying your Squadron with Provisions they will direct the Victualling Board to send out to you in due time a further supply of Provisions than those mentioned in my Letter of the 24th Ultimo.

Their Lordships are satisfied with your having permitted Lieutenant Merrick to quit the *Glasgow* for the recovery of his health, and have no objection to your giving Mr Pultney a Commission to be Lieutenant of her, in his room, who is now acting as such by your Order. I am &c

P: S:

(By the *Raven* Sloop)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 478, NYHS Transcript.

7 July

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 7 July 1775

The news from America is not very good. You will find the detailed description of a military action, which is not very important in itself, but which shows the capabilities of the rebels. The Ministry insisted yesterday that it had not been informed of that action; I had it confirmed by the supporters of the Americans and the facts are true. I will do my best to arrange for some connections among these gentlemen. I believe that they inform me of what happens in America more promptly than Mylord Rochford.

This Minister, however, spoke to me yesterday freely and in great detail. The decision has been made and the order given to confiscate all the ships belonging to the American rebels or to those who would trade with them. The army will occupy New York, Boston and all the ports and there will be no action on land except in last resort. They are convinced that in this manner they will starve the Americans by blocking their access to the sea and reduce them to obedience. For this purpose they will recall the warships now used on the coasts of America and replace them with frigates, corvettes and other types of vessels more apt to keep close to the coast and seize shallow-draught ships. This solution which consists in starving the Americans, if it is at all possible, which I doubt very much, is certainly the best in as much as it will end the quarrel sooner. This endurance test will cause the loss of America to the mother country which needs a people of merchants, not warriors.

Mylord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, was threatened by the rebels. In his turn he threatened to free all his slaves if they did not carry out his orders to the smallest detail. This threat made them come to their senses; but is it not a pity that a Nation of Merchants be reduced to freeing the slaves in order to protect its Colonies against its own Colonists!

They expect to draw many recruits from Ireland, maybe two thousand men within a month at most. Mylord Rochford told me that a regiment, among others, cut down to 20. men was being recalled from America with only its officers and colors in order to be brought up to strength with these recruits. This is the major drawback of regiments as weak as these British regiments. The smallest defeat is a fatal blow to them, and they are destroyed, so to speak, before they even go into action. If they send for Hanoverian troops, they will send them to relieve the garrisons at Gibraltar and even Minorca which they will then use in America.

The Ministry is relying entirely on the Canadians. I do not doubt in the least that all necessary steps have been taken to this effect. I had not yet heard such positive statements on this subject. . . .

News concerning the Ports.

The five reserve vessels in Plymouth have only four hundred and six men in their crews. As a matter of fact, none of these ships has on board more than the required number of men to man her boats.

All the carpenters of Portsmouth and Plymouth are refusing to work. After firing all shipwrights the Count of Sandwich now has to negotiate with them. He has asked their Committee to send their requests in writing. They are asking for about two shillings and six pence per day. Captain Bennet has sent a message to Portsmouth from Newfoundland saying that the supplies are very scarce. The garrison had only four pounds of bread per man per week, and at the time the letter was sent, there was enough bread left to last a week. Chicken cost one guinea each. A marine writes from Boston that there is no bread and that mutton costs one shilling per pound. In Plymouth, the ship chandler has received the order to bake biscuit in all his ovens for the ships in America.

Arethuse and *Lizard* are in dry-dock and have the greater part of their crews; *Marlborough* and *Resolution* are ready to sail for Spithead. These two ships and the corvette *Alderne* are the only vessels laid up in Plymouth. *Barfleur*, *Centaure*, *Kent* and the corvette *Raven* are in Spithead. The ships *Phoenix* with 44 cannons, *Roebuck* with 44 cannons, *Experiment* with 50 cannons are being laid up. The first in Portsmouth, the second in Chatam, the third in Deptford. There are six Russian ships in Motherbane.

The 40th regiment is going to be increased from 477 men to 1164. It is certain it will be sent to Northern America as soon as it is brought up to strength.

[Enclosure] Description of an Action in America.

In the morning of 27 May, around 11 o'clock, a party of provincials were carrying out their orders which took them from Chelsea to the Islands of Hogg and Noddle in order to remove the livestock from the said islands. They were interrupted on their way by a schooner and a corvette detached from the fleet stationed in front of Boston and by about forty marines who were under orders to keep watch over the live-stock. Nevertheless, the Provincials managed to take a few cows and horses, killed a few and set fire to a barn and a farm. Meanwhile, the two warships and a large detachment of marines from these ships which had been lowered in boats fired upon the Americans. The latter took refuge in a ditch near a marsh and remained hidden there until they had the opportunity to fire on the marines, which they did, killing three and wounding one of them. They proceeded then to the Isle of Hogg where they were joined by the other members of their party and where they drove away all the live-stock: three or four hundred sheep, a few cows, horses, etc. Both camps kept on exchanging gunfire.

After cleaning up the Island of Hogg, the Provincials marched to the Point of Chelsea where they drew up in battle array and sent for a reinforcement of three hundred men and two four pounders. This reinforcement arrived around nine o'clock in the evening, and a while later, General Putnam shouted to the schooner saying to the men who manned this ship that if they wished to surrender

they would be granted quarter. He was answered by two cannon shots which were immediately returned. Then violent firing opened on both sides which lasted until eleven o'clock in the evening when the schooner stopped firing. The crew had to abandon ship and take to the boats which had been sent in great number to their rescue along with a large detachment of marines which had taken position on the Island of Noddle with two twelve pounders.

Without her crew, the schooner ran aground and, at daybreak, the Provincials set fire to her. At this time the two twelve pounders opened a violent fire.

For his part, General Putnam blazed away at the corvette and battered her to such an extent that the greater part of her crew was killed and she had to be towed by boats. All firing ceased then except for a few random shots between Chelsea and Noddle Island.

During this long action, the Provincials did not lose a single man. They had only four wounded, one of them by his own gun which exploded. They removed from the Schooner four four pounders, twelve blunderbuss, most of her sails and rigging, also clothes and money, etc. On the other side there were 20. killed and fifty wounded.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 511, 282, LC Photocopy.*

8 July

WILLIAM LEE TO WILLIAM HICKS ¹

Dear Sir!

London 8 July 1775

I only recd yr oblig: favor of the 1st Inst on the 6th & note its contents. A Duplicate of yr Occot: agst my Nephews shall be sent to my Br as soon as an oppty offers which may not be these 9 or 12 Mos, therefore if any quicker conveyance to the Virga side of Poto [mac] or Rap[hannoc]k shd happen from yr Port, it will be esteemed very obligd: in you to forward a duplicate yourself. The dft: to S. Potter £45.11.3 is this day paid. The price of Tobo is already so high that a speculation is dangerous, for if a moderate qty is imported, the value cannot increase – Sir Robt Herries is now selling merchantable at 3 3/8 & good at 3 5/8 P lb: he has abt 1000 hhds on hand; no other person has any thing worth mentioning, still the demand is so small owing to the State of the European markets, that Sr Robts Tobo goes off slowly. Notwithstanding I am of opinion something may be made of Mr Chambre's Tobo at the price of 3½ P lb; deld at the Kings Scale in London allowing as is usual 12 dft & Sample with the Trett. The Buyer to appoint his own Cooper & Broker – to abate ¼ P lb on the price for every Hhd that is cut 100lb & upwards – 2 P Ct Disct to be allowed on the purchase & to be paid by bills at 60 daies after the delivery in London or 3 Mos after the Ships Arrival & report here – Bills on me acceptd at 3 Mos will be readily discd On this plan you will observe the Ship must not enter at Whitehaven but come round immediately to London & the supposition is, that her whole Cargoe is from the upper Warehouses on Jams River none below Appomattox. I expect a Ship of my own in 15 or 20 daies from Virga therefore shall fear being pushed in the paymt for Messrs Chambre & Cos. Cargoe, unless you can help me out of it shd be requisite; for most of my Tobo will be for Home Consumption &

will consequently require a large Sum for paymt of the Duties. If on maturely considering what is premised you chuse to engage on the terms mentioned, with Messrs Chambre & Co I will be one half concerned with you in the same Should it be absolutely required to name a Broker, *before* the Bargain is completed – You may mention Mr T. Williams who is well known to many Gent in Whitehaven.

The papers will tell you our proceedings in Common Hall, Yesterday for the first time, the Common Council of London agreed to address the Throne on American Grievances & to pray a Suspension of Hostilities – Their address &c will be delivered some time next week – The truest & latest American intelligence you will find in the Public Ledgers of this Week I am &c –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, JULY 8 [1775].”¹

The *Solebay* man of war lately put into commission, and one of the ships ordered for the American station, upon a survey was found to be rotten, and it is said will be put out of commission, and some other appointed in her room.

1. Reprinted in *Connecticut Gazette*, Sept. 29, 1775, from an unidentified London newspaper.

9 July (Sunday)

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, JULY 9 [1775]”¹

Since my last sailed from Spithead, the *Raven* man of war for Boston. . . .

1. *London Chronicle*, July 8 to July 11, 1775.

10 July

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, JULY 10 [1775].”¹

The *Renown* and *Phoenix*, each of 40 guns, are commissioned at this port, and the *Rainbow* at Sheerness; they are ordered to America to relieve the *Boyne*, *Somerset* and *Asia*, of 64 guns each; these being found to be too large for that country, and that 40 gun Ships will answer the purpose better.

1. Reprinted in *Connecticut Gazette*, Sept. 29, 1775, from the *London Chronicle*, July 11–13, 1775.

11 July

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE¹

Sir

Admty Office 11 July 1775

My Lords' Commissrs of the Admty having in pursuance of the King's Pleasure signified by the Earl of Dartmouth in his Letter of the 29th of last Month, directed the Navy Board to hire two Vessels the one of about 150 Tons, the other of about 100 Tons to carry Stores to Quebec and Virginia; And the said Board having informed my Lords that they have hired the *Jacob* Thomas Brown Master to carry Stores to Quebec, and the *Maria* to carry the like to Virginia and that they

are both ready to receive the same; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith for the Earl of Dartmouth's information And am

Sr [&c.]

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL WILLIAM PARRY TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir I desire you will please to acquaint the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Vice Admiral [James] Young arrived in English Harbour in His Majesty's Ship *Portland* on the 8th of June last, and likewise the *Pomona* Sloop and the next day I waited on him and received their Lordships Orders of the 15th of April last for my return to England, Agreeable to which, I delivered to him all such orders as remained unexecuted, and informed him of every particular respecting the State and Disposition of the Squadron, and of every other matter relative to the Command.

On the 11th I sailed in His Majesty's Ship *Chatham* from St. John's Road for England, as did His Majesty's Sloop *Favorite*, with Orders to stop a few hours at St. Christophers to take in some sweet Water, her Captain having represented to me that great part of what they had on board was stinking and unfit to drink.

I wrote to you by His Majesty's Ship *Deal Castle*, which dispatches Captain [James] Cummings put in the Post this day; I anchored at Spithead Yesterday at 4 O'Clock in the afternoon, and the *Deal Castle* at 5.

On Saturday last [July 8] about 8 O'Clock in the evening I spoke with Sir Peter Parker in His Majesty's Ship *Royal Oak*, in Company with three other Ships of the Line, and a Frigate about 22 Leagues West of Scilly.

I am Sir [&c.]

Chatham at Spithead the 11th of July 1775

Will^m Parry

1. PRO, Admiralty, Class 1/309.

12 July

JOHN POWNALL TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Whitehall 12th July 1775

The Stores to be carried to Quebec & Virginia by the Ships taken up for that purpose, are as follows – Vizt

For Quebec	{	3000 Stand of Arms, with 200 rounds of
		Powder & Ball for each Musket.
	{	4 light Field-Pieces – 3 Pounders.
		Cloathing for 3000 Men.
For Virginia	{	Accoutrements for 3000 Men.
	{	3000 Stand of Arms, with 200 Rounds of
		Powder & Ball for each Musket.
	{	4 light Field Pieces – 3 Pounders

And I am directed by Lord Dartmouth to desire that the proper Orders may be given for receiving the said Stores on Board.

The Board of Ordnance furnish the Arms, Ammunition and Field Pieces, Mr Alderman Harley provides the cloathing, and Sir James Esdaile the Accoutrements, & directions are given to each respectively to ship the Stores with all possible dispatch.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO LORD DUNMORE ¹

(No. 22)

Whitehall, 12th July 1775

My Lord, This Dispatch accompanies a triplicate of my Letter to your Lordship of the 5th Instant, and is intrusted to the Care of Capt Dodsworth who has on board 3000 Stand of Arms with two hundred rounds of Powder & Ball for each Musket, and 4 light Brass 3 pounders to be delivered to your Lordships order.

Captain Dodsworth has my Instructions that he do immediately upon his arrival on the Coast of Virginia put himself under the Protection of one of His Majesty's Ships of War and having sent his Letters on shore that he do wait your orders for the disposal of the Arms and other Military Stores, Your Lordship will therefore give him those Orders and discharge the Ship as soon as you conveniently can.

His Majesty hopes that this supply of Arms will arrive Seasonably for those Objects pointed out in your Lordship's Dispatch of the 1st. of May, and that with the Assistance of the Detachment of the 14th Regiment, which I see General [Thomas] Gage has authorized your Lordship to send for, and the Men you say you can raise from among Indians, Negroes, & other Persons, you will have Force enough if not to reduce the Colony to obedience, at least to Act upon the Defensive, and withstand those Attacks with which yourself and the rest of the Officers and Friends of Government are menaced.

Your Lordships fortitude has already been put to a very severe Trial, and the Sacrifice you have made of your own Safety to the Dignity of Government does you the greatest honour, it is not however the King's desire that your Lordship should abide all Extremities & the order given to the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships to receive on board His Majesty's Governors in Case of necessity implies His Majesty's Permission to those Governors to avail themselves of that Asylum whenever their personal Safety requires it.

The situation of Governor [Josiah] Martin in the neighboring Province of North Carolina is in many respects similar to that of your Lordship; the Violences, however, there are not so great as in Virginia, and we have reason to hope that some of the Western Counties are firm Friends to Government and ready to Associate against Rebellion, every thing therefore in Our Power has been done to improve that advantage, the Governor is Authorized to encourage the raising a Battalion of Highlanders under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel McLean and lest Governor Gage should not have it in his power to furnish Arms for that purpose it will be proper that your Lordship should from the supply now sent you, deliver to Governor Martin's Order, such a portion of them as he shall want, and your Lordship may be able to spare him.

The Support your Lordship met with from the Gentlemen of the Council who attended you on the 2d of May does them much honor, and I think it affords good ground to hope, that Men of Spirit and property will at length be awakened to a sense of their Situation and of the inevitable ruin which must follow from such a State of total Anarchy and Confusion, as your Lordship represents the Colony to be in. I am &c

Dartmouth

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/1353, 311–318, LC Transcript.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO JOSIAH MARTIN, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA ¹

[Extract]

Whitehall, 12th July, 1775

This dispatch which encloses a triplicate of my letter of the 5th instant will be transmitted to you by Lord Dunmore under whose care it is sent by a Store Ship having on Board 3000 stand of Arms with Ammunition and other Military Stores, a part of which arms His Lordship is instructed to deliver to your order from a hope on one hand that Lieutenant Colonel [Allen] Maclean will be able with your assistance to raise a Battalion from amongst the Highlanders in North Carolina, and an apprehension on the other hand that General Gage may not be able to supply all the Arms that may be necessary on such an occasion.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, X, 89–91.

13 July

WILLIAM LEE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

My Dear Brother,

London 13 July 1775.

Capn [Nathaniel] Falconer delivered me safely your favour of May the 10 from Phila – The insurances you ordered are made. The uncertainty of this reaching you at Philadelphia, or indeed at all, will prevent me from being so full as I shd otherwise be. Our Br A[rthur] has wrote I believe pretty largely. Notwithstanding the base & wicked attempts of our Ministry & Genl. [Thomas] Gage to disguise the truth 9 tenths of the People here are fully convinced that the Civil War was commenced by Genl Gage. – I can with truth & pleasure assure you that the repeated success of the Provincials since the 19th of April gives almost universal pleasure here, but still you are not to expect any really spirited exertions on the part of the people untill they feel, which they do not at present, because large remittances have been made to the Merchts in generall & unfortunately chiefly to the most ministerial ones; who besides it is said, have privately negotiated with the minister to prevail on the Bank to lend them £300,000 – part of which a Tobo Mercht is to share, who has made a great parade to his correspondents of his services last winter. – Indeed if things are ever settled a reform must be made respecting the American Merchts for half the present mischeif has arisen from their Villainy & Treachery to you. –

The Governor of Virginias conduct in robing you of yr powder & the Proclamation agt [Patrick] Henry, with the Councils contemptible & stupid address to the people, makes a fair opening for a reform in your constitution & Government which is founded on as arbitrary & tyranical a system as can well

be contrived; the mode of summoning Juries is open to ten thousand objections & in process of time will be a dreadful engine of oppression in the hands of a Tyrant.

The late constitution of Massachusetts or the present of Connecticut & Rhode Island seem the most eligible. —

Now is the time to form a proper mode of internal Government which may last for many Centuries, & if 'tis lost or disregarded, the opty may never occur again.

We have various reports of what the Congress is about but nothing shall I believe that is not authenticated with the name of Charles Thomson. Capn Falconer has all the papers, there are no publications worth sending which you have not already had. The Corporation of London has at last agreed to Petition the King in your behalf a copy of which I inclose, it is to be delivered on Friday [July 14] & perhaps you will get the answer with this. The Ministers have however sent orders to Genl Gage to persevere & to go out of Boston to dispossess the Provincials of their strong places, Genl [Guy] Carlton is ordered to send down on the back Country the 3,000 Canadians, which he has wrote he can spare for Gages assistance (blessed fruit of the Quebec Act) & a highland regiment is to be compleated to 1000 with highlanders under a Ld John Murray, to be sent as soon as compleated to America. From Quebec they expect to be able to get fresh provisions sufficient for the Army & fleet at Boston.

If they get men at all, it must be from Scotland or among the Irish Roman Catholics, for the American War is really so odious & disgusting to the Common people in England that no Soldiers or Sailors will enlist, for without pressing they cannot in two months man two twenty gun ships, nor have they for 3 Months past enlisted 20 Soldiers in all England, tho' recruiting parties are all over the Country. Added to this the Shipwrights at Plymouth, Portsmouth, Gosport, Chatham & Sheerness to amt of 3000, have all left off work, on Acct of their ill usage, when they have not 3 ships in all the yards fit to put to sea. These Men call'd on me yesterday with their petition which they are to present to the K--g tomorrow. 'tis spirited & bold. to compleat the affaire two daies ago an express arrived from Gibralter, by a Man of Wars cutter the Capts. brother I have seen, who says, they expected the same wind which bro't him to England wd bring the Spanish fleet & Army from Carthagen to Giberalter, that the works on the Sea side were quite in ruins & that he does not doubt the place surrendering if attacked.

Europe has not seen such an Armament, since the famous Armada in Queen Elizabeths time, 60 Sail of the line, besides smaller vessels & transports, with 30,000 land forces all collected within a days sail of Giberalter.

Under these difficulties with every thing in confusion in the East Indias, our Mule & his Drivers B[u]te & M[a]nsf[iel]d are determined to ruin America, if they can — Things look very well — You have nothing to do but to persevere, as we are told you are proceeding — prepare for a vigorous defence at the same time hold out your plan of accomodation in the form of an American bill of rights in which you shd not forget to new model the several arbitrary Colonial constitutions, such as Virginia, New York &c. — the people shd choose all their

own Officers annually (unless the appointment of the Commander in chief remaining in the Crown) as in the New England Provinces. Canada shd be reduced to its Antient boundaries where religions shd be tolerated as in Pennsylvania but none established. Assemblies shd of right be held every year & a Genl Congress annually or once in two years at least to consider & settle the common interest of all the Colonies. Tis reported, the Genl Congress are about publishing a Manifesto to all the World & to open yr ports to all nations; shd this prove true the maritime powers of Europe must fight in yr cause for the benefit of yr commerce. Shd Spain attack Giberalter, you may immediately settle yr own terms – if they do not, the Ministers are determined to try the issue of this campaign, if they are unsuccessful, they must yield the contest; if successful they will go on, but even then, I am satisfied they will not be able to add 2000 Men more Next year to the present force they have in America – You know whether that will be sufficient to subdue you. – The public prints you will see if in Phila if you are not they will be too bulky to forward with this.

We are all well –

Vale.

1. William Lee Letters, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO SAMUEL GRIFFEN ¹

Dear Sir!

London 13 July 1775

I have before me yr favr of May 6 & June 3d – none of my Lrs from Virga mention yr having any Tobo on board the *Adventure* therefore none is insured. The Underwriters that stand out will not settle without a law Suit wch shall be commenced as soon as Mr Browne returns, as he is a material witness; I do not therefore send yr Acct Currt the Ball: of wch is in yr favr but very triffling; if your Tobo comes the price proceds must be apply'd to pay Fisher, yr Brs bill being already to yr debt. In this transaction of yr affairs I shall give the same attention as to my own. I have no doubt of the Americans proving themselves worthy descendants of Englishmen. Capt [Nathaniel] Falconer will tell you the news we have here. I am &c

P.S. You had a copy of yr Acct Curt sent last month since wch there is no alteration

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO ANDREW ALLEN ¹

[Extract]

London 13 July 1775

'Tis a lamentable circumstance that a set of miscreant ministers shd have forced us into a Civil War; but as they have begun, I hope the Amerins. will remember the advice of Polonius to his Son Laertes in Hamlet "Beware of entrance into a quarrel, butt being in, bear it that the opposer may beware of thee." Capt [Nathaniel] Falconer has all the Public News which is not very material, as this is a dead season of the year in London, except that we have great reason to believe that the Spaniards are now, or will be very soon besieging Gibralter.

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO GEORGE MASON ¹

Dear Sir!

London 13 July 1775

I have just recd yr favor of May 20 & am greatly obliged by yr consignmt P the *Adventure*. In consequence of orders from my Br. R H Lee I had insured for you £1000 in the *Adventure* but on rect. of yrs. £145 more was added makg. in the whole £1145 wch. in case of loss will cover abt. £1100 nett, Unless yr Tobo is of a very good quality I cannot flatter you with the prospect of gaining as much by its safe arrival for notwithstanding the very alarmg. prospect of public affairs, the price of Tobo. is just as it was some months ago nor do I think it will rise till after Xtnas & then it will depend a good deal on the quantity that is actually made this year, for the buyers will never believe you are in earnest about not shipg, if you make it, untill they experience yr resolution by their want of the commodity; However you may be assured of my exerting myself to return you a pleasing Acct. of Sales. We every day expect to hear of the Spaniards besieging Gibraltar. Shd this be the case a Genl European war will take place in 12 Mos I am &c

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

14 July

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 14 July 1775

Mylord Rochford talked to the Ambassador of Spain of a coming impressment. As a matter of fact, since the reserve ships have crews only for their boats, an impressment seems to be the only way to send to the American Coast the frigates and other ships which are to intercept the trade of the Americans. Meanwhile it will provoke unfortunate circumstances on the English Coast where an impressment is always considered as a tyranny, unless it is based on patriotic reasons which would substitute a national enthusiasm for the real interests of trade.

A ship, arrived a few days ago, has seen along the New England coast the ships carrying the reinforcements for General Gage. The rebels made several proposals which were called inadmissible by the Government, to wit: the recall of the troops, the annulment as soon as possible of the four acts relating to America, the renunciation by the Parliament of all rights to tax the Colonies. The Government would be willing to enter into this last engagement; but to annul the Acts and leave to the Americans the freedom of trade, which is what they really want, this would mean losing America, even more, it would mean losing England whose population would leave everyday for America in larger number. The Minister hopes that these proposals are a step towards more acceptable ones. He is convinced that the Americans will give up. As for me, I cannot believe it. Encouraged and enlightened by most eminent leaders, they are sure of their success if only by temporizing.

P.S.

Ships in commission for Boston

<i>Experiment</i> -----	50 Guns	<i>Liverpoole</i> -----	28 Guns
<i>Roebuck</i> -----	44 -	<i>Milford</i> -----	28 -
<i>Phenix</i> -----	44 -	<i>Hazard</i> -----	Corvette.
<i>Action</i> -----	28 -		

The frigate *Milford* is not in any condition to sail.

The frigate *Liverpoole* replaces the frigate *Solebay* which will be under repairs for more than four months.

The corvette *Wolf* sailed for Ireland.

The corvette *Raven* sailed for Boston with dispatches for Admiral Graves.

The frigate *Enterprise* came into Portsmouth from the Dunes.

The cutter *Meredith* arrived from Gibraltar.

The ships *Chatham* and *Deal-Castle* came into Spithead from Antigua. They are finished with their cruise.

The carpenters have not returned to the ship-yards, and nothing has been decided about them.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol., 511, 283, LC Photocopy.

17 July

JOHN CAMPBELL, EARL OF LOUDOUN, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

My Lord

Loudoun 17 July 1775

I have just now received the Inclosed papers, which arived at Greenock by a Ship on Saturday last [July 15] which left Virginia on the 12 of June, the merchant has communicated them to me this morning with an Extract of his Letters from Williamsburg, in case your Lordship has not received so late an Inteligence I thought proper to forward them to you.

I have the Honour to be with great regard and Esteem My Lord [&c.]

Loudoun

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/154, 76a.

18 July

"EXTRACT FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED LONDON NEWSPAPER" ¹

London, July 18, 1775

Yesterday se'nnight [July 10] arrived at Whitehaven, the *Molly*, Captain Mitchinson, in twenty-six days from Norfolk, in Virginia. She was not suffered to land her cargo in Norfolk. The Committee was called and expresses sent to Alexandria where a Congress was sitting. The Captain was seized, and with much difficulty and solicitation escaped tar and feathers. One of the merchants, who resides at Norfolk, requested that the vessel might proceed with her cargo to Quebeck, which was refused; nor would the Committee suffer it to be transhipped into another vessel belonging to the Company, then loading for Whitehaven; nor allow the *Molly* to take in the tobacco which was prepared for

Liste des Vaisseaux de guerre Anglois de tout rang
qui sont, présumés, bons tant au dehors que dans les
ports. Suivant leur répartition aux 17. Juillet 1775.

N.B. On a souligné ceux qui sont neufs ou qui ont été depuis
bien réparés.

<u>Amerique Septentrionale</u>		
Boyne	20	28. Octobre 1774
Somerset	64	28. Octobre 1774
Asia	64	28. Octobre 1774.
Chatham	50	avril 1775
Preston	50	29. Avril 1774.
Centurion	50	avril 1775
Agamemnon	44	avril 1775
Carlisle	28	20. Juillet 1774.
Liverpool	28	avril 1775
Serbere	28	11. Avril 1775
Blakeney	44	avril 1775
Andromeda	28	avril 1775

Noms des Vaisseaux	Canons	Dates de leur départ
Agamemnon	28	avril 1775
Fowey	24	18. Mai 1772.
Mercury	24	6. Mars 1774
Wind	24	4. Octobre 1774
Glasgow	20	25. Décembre 1772.
Lively	20	16. Avril 1774
Race	20	5. Mai 1774.
Scarborough	20	14. Octobre 1774
Merlin	18	20. Mars 1775
Falcon	18	20. Février 1775

French intelligence on the disposition of ships of the British fleet, summer, 1775.

her, but compelled the merchant to send the cargo back in the same bottom, without diminution or addition, to be landed at Whitehaven; for the performance of which they obliged him to give a bond of three thousand Pounds.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 1680.

19 July

EDMUND BURKE TO RICHARD CHAMPION ¹

[Extract]

Butlers Court July. 19. 1775.

If he [General Gage] should succeed and beat the raw American troops, which from his superiority in discipline and artillery, as well as his present considerable Numbers, I think he probably will; then we shall be so elevated here as to throw all moderation behind us, and plunge ourselves into a War which cannot be ended by many such Battles, though they should all terminate in so many Victories. If we are beat, America is gone irrecoverably.

1. Guttridge, ed., *Burke Correspondence*, III, 180. Champion was a British merchant and staunch political supporter of Burke.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY ¹

My Lords,

Whitehall 19th July 1775

I am commanded by the King to signify to your Lordships His Majesty's Pleasure, that a Vessel of about 200 Tons Burthen be taken up by the Navy Board, to carry Arms and other Military Stores to Quebec, and also that one of His Majesty's small Ships, such as your Lordships think proper be forthwith prepared to carry dispatches to General [Thomas] Gage at Boston. —

I am &c.

Dartmouth

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

By &ca.

Whereas we think fit that you shall proceed to Boston and serve under the Command of Samuel Graves Esqr. Vice Admiral of the White and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America; You are hereby required and directed to repair to Portsmouth and hoisting your Flag on board His Majesty's Ship *Chatham* at that Port, hold yourself in constant readiness to proceed to Boston accordingly, when you shall receive our further Orders for that purpose. Given &c the 19h. of July 1775

Sandwich
Palmerston
H. Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/550/544, NYHS Transcript.

21 July

“ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY]
DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA”¹

1775. The King's pleasure was signified by the Earl of Dartmouth for a
21st July – Number of flat bottom Boats of a Size best adapted to His
Majesty's Service in North America to be forthwith prepared &
sent out

1. Germain Papers, CL.

WILLIAM LEE TO JOHN BALLENTINE & CO.¹

Dr Gentn

London 21 July 1775

Inclosed you have Mr Jas Robinsons dft pble at 60 dys: sight in London
to Hudson Muse for £90 wch please to get acceptd & return the same in course—

We have hand Intelligence from Boston so late as June 23 & nothing material
had happened since takg the Hay & Horses &c from the Islands in Boston Har-
bour. – No advance in the price of Tobo as yet but from the appearance of things
that Commodity in 6 or 9 Mos. must be higher than has been known in the
present Century. We have so little on hand that a markt price for Virga cannot
be mention'd – Our Ships are however daily expected & in a month or two, we
may form some idea of a market price in London – Shd be glad to know how
things rule in Glasgow & the latest American Intelligence you have particularly
from Virga I am &c

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY¹

My Lords,

Whitehall 21st July 1775.

I am Commanded by the King to signify to your Lordships His Majesty's
Pleasure that in addition to the Ships of War already ordered for North America,
your Lordships do send such further reinforcement to the fleet under the command
of Admiral [Samuel] Graves, as the state of His Majesty's Naval Service will, in
your Lordships' judgement, admit of; and that your Lordships do also prepare
forthwith, & cause to be sent out to North America, such a number of flat bottomed
boats, & of such a size as your Lordships shall think best adapted to His Majesty's
Service in those parts.

It is His Majesty's further pleasure that your Lordships do instruct Vice
Admiral Graves to examine all Letters which he may find on board any ships
which he may think fit to detain, & that he do transmit to your Lordships, to be
communicated to me, all such Letters as shall, in his opinion, contain any matter
tending to aid, abet, or advise the rebellious proceedings of His Majesty's Subjects
in North America.

And as there is ground to suspect that two Vessels that lately sailed from the
Downs for Philadelphia – Vizt the *Mary & Elizabeth*, Capt. [Nathaniel] Fal-
coner, & the *Pennsylvania Packet*² Capt [Peter] Osburn [Osborne]³ may have

Letters from persons here in England, who secretly hold a traitorous correspondence with the Rebels, it is His Majesty's further Pleasure that Vice Admiral Graves be instructed immediately to dispatch one of the small ships of his fleet to the Delawar River with orders, that if the above two Vessels shall not have then been arrived, upon their arrival to stop & search them, & in case any Letters of such a nature and tendency, as is above described, shall be found on board, to detain all such, & carry them to the Vice Admiral, who is to transmit them in like manner to your Lordships.

I am &ca

Dartmouth

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.
2. The ship *Mary and Elizabeth*, Captain Nathaniel Falconer, arrived unmolested by the British in the Delaware about Sept. 15, 1775. *Pennsylvania Journal* Sept. 20, 1775.
3. The ship *Pennsylvania Packet* disappeared at sea, being last spoken with toward the end of August 1775, by a Captain Lee, who arrived at New York from Falmouth on Sept. 17, and who reported that "about three Weeks ago, he spoke Captain Osborn, from London . . . and kept Company with him 10 Days;" *Pennsylvania Gazette*, Sept. 20, 1775.

LORD GEORGE TOWNSHEND TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

My Lord,

Rainham 21st July 1775

By a Letter I have received from General [Thomas] Gage of the 10th last Month – He is well pleased with the arrival of Lieut Page the Engineer, as he says he may soon make use of his Abilities. from whence I infer that the two other Engineers His Majesty has ordered may be very acceptable. at that time the General says that only Majr Farrington, Engineer Page with the Recruits were arrived

I troubled Your Lordship before I left Town with a Circumstance which occur'd to me, vizt that There were at the Tower Plenty of Wall Pieces, extremely proper to hold an Enemy at a Distance from Covert ways & out Posts, & are more transportable than Light-Artillery, especially in service where Boats are Employed – these probably might be very usefull with Mr Gage in his future Operations. –

I see by the Papers that Lord Dunmore has determined to Embark. Does yr Lordship send the Artillery & Arms to Virginia? He has a Capt [Edward] Foy with him, of our Artillery esteem'd a Good Officer, that is the only person I believe his Lordp has with him, who understands a Gun.

I have received a Letter from a very Intelligent Gentleman in N: Carolina dated June 1st describing the Temper of the People in that Province, & mentioning that There are a body of Highlanders there would take up Arms for the Government, & that the chief Opposition rages with the People on the Coast, but that the back Settlers who are the most numerous, would be in general either Neutral or join Government. He called at [St.] Eustatia, there was but one Barrel of Gunpowder for sale left – the rest had all been ship'd for America – that The Island was full of Brittish Manufactures for the American Merchants –

Altho I conceive these Things have already come more fully before your

Lordp I thought They might not be altogether unworthy of transmitting –
begging Your Lordp Excuse for the interruption, I am [&c.]

Townshend

[Endorsed] Ld Townshend/ 21 July 1775,/ respecting the Transportation/ of
some Artillery

1. Dartmouth Mss., WSL.

24 July

“ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY]
DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA”¹

[1775] The Navy Board were directed to contract for building 20. such
24th [July] – [flat bottomed] Boats capable of carrying 40. Soldiers with 18.
Rowers each.

Do. Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves was directed, in pursuance of the
Kings Pleasure—signified by Lord Dartmouth on the 21st to
order the Captains & Commanders of his Squadron to stop &
search all Merchant Ships & Vessels bound to, or from, North
America; to examine all Letters which they shall find on board
& to send to him all such as shall appear to contain any matter
tending to aid, abet or advise the Rebellious proceedings of
His Majesty’s Subjects in North America; And if he himself
shall be of opinion that they do contain any such matter to
send them home by the first Opportunity or Express if necessary,
in order that they may be communicated to his Lordship; And,
To send a small Vessel to the Delawar to look out for, stop &
search two Vessels which lately sailed from the Downes for
Philadelphia suspected to have on board Letters from Persons
in England who hold traiterous Correspondence with the
Rebels.²

1. Germain Papers, CL.

2. See footnote to Dartmouth’s letter of July 21, 1775.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL
GRAVES¹

By &ca.

The Earl of Dartmouth, One of His Majesty’s Principal Secretaries of State,
having acquainted us, by his Letter of the 21st. Instant, that it is His Majesty’s
Pleasure that we should instruct you to examine all Letters which you may find
on board any Ships which you may think fit to detain and to transmit to us, to
be communicated to his Lordship, all such Letters as shall in your opinion, contain
any matter tending to aid, abet, or advise the Rebellious proceedings of His
Majesty’s Subjects in North America. You are hereby required and directed, in
pursuance of His Majesty’s said Pleasure to give strict Orders to the respective
Captains & Commanders of His Majesty’s Ships & Vessels under your Command
to stop & search all Merchant Ships & Vessels bound to, or from, North America,

And in case they shall find any such Letters on board them to send the same to you, And, if you shall be of opinion that the Said Letters do contain any matter tending to aid, abet, or advise, the Rebellious proceedings of His Majesty's Subjects in North America, You are to dispatch the same to us, by the very first safe Conveyance which may offer, or to send home one of the Ships or Vessels of your Squadron express with them if they shall appear to be of such moment as to require it; in order that we may communicate the same to his Lordship accordingly.

And, as there is ground to suspect that two Vessels which lately sailed from the Downes for Philadelphia, vizt the *Mary & Elizabeth*, Capt. [Nathaniel] Falconer, & the *Pennsylvania Pacquet*, Capt. [Peter] Osborn, may have Letters from Persons here in England who secretly hold a traiterous Correspondence with the Rebels. You are, in pursuance of His Majesty's Pleasure, signified as aforesaid, immediately to dispatch one of the small Ships of your Squadron to the Delawar River, with Orders to her Commander, that if the above two Vessels shall not then have arrived, upon their arrival to stop & search them, and, in case any Letters of such a nature or tendency as is above described shall be found on board, to detain all such & carry them to you to be transmitted to us in the manner abovementioned. Given &ca. the 24th. July 1775

Sandwich
Palmerston
H Palliser

Sent by the *Folkstone* Cutter, but she being disabled & obliged to put back, It was sent 23 Augt by the *Phoenix* with a Letter to him.

An attested copy was also sent by the *Cerburus*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, NYHS Transcript.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

By &c.

Lieutenant [Joseph] Nunn, who commands His Majesty's Cutter the *Folkstone*, by whom you will receive this, being directed to put himself under your Command and follow your Orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required and directed to take him and the said Cutter under your Command accordingly and employ them as you shall find best for His Majestys Service entrusted to your care. Given &c the 24h. July 1775.

Sandwich
Palmerston
H. Palliser

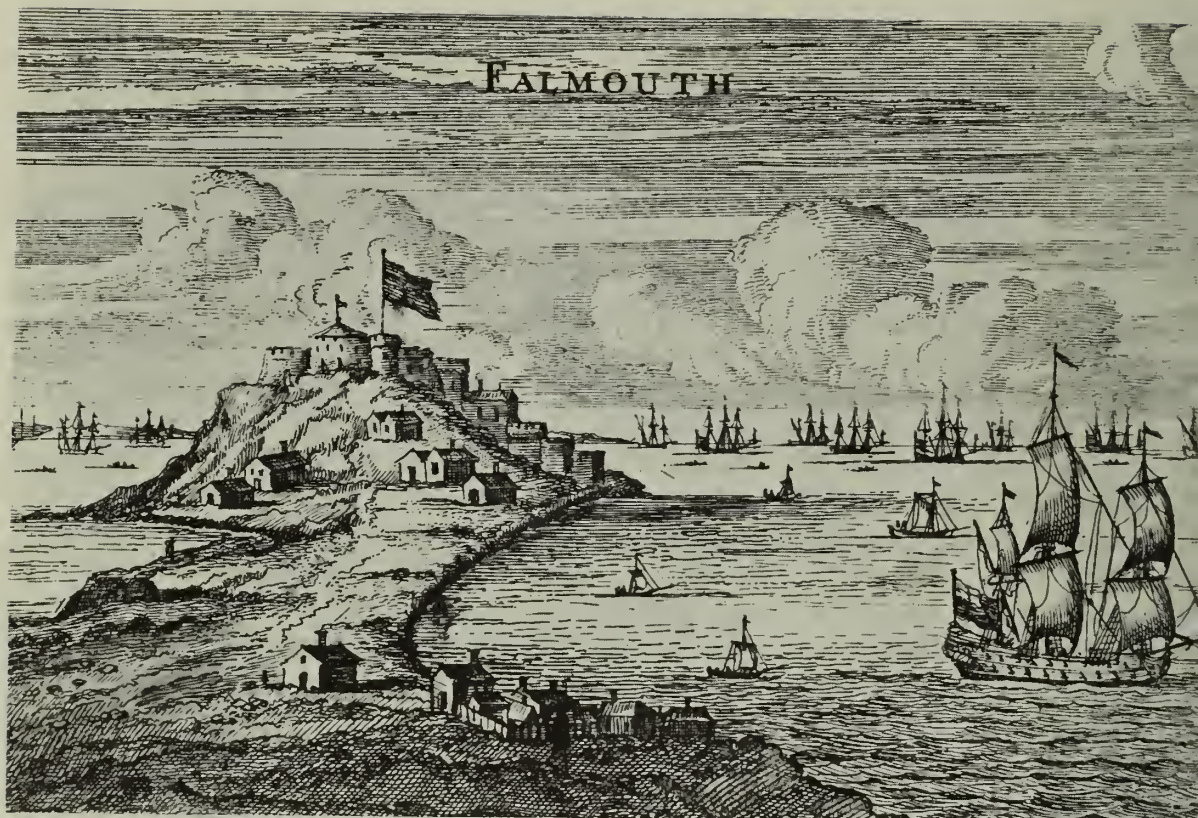
1. PRO, Admiralty 2/99, 545, NYHS Transcript.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 24th July 1775

The Navy Board being directed to send on board each of the Vessels named on the other side hereof hired to carry Provisions to Boston, One of the Boats they were directed to provide, in order to be sent out to you; And the Masters of the said Vessels being directed to dispose of the same upon his arrival as you



(Top) Falmouth, England, 1778. (Bottom) Plymouth, England, 1778.

shall direct; I am commanded by my Lords Commrs. of the Admty to acquaint you therewith &c

(By the *Folkstone* Cutter 25h July 1775)

B. This Letter was returned to the Office, (as the *Folkstone* Cutter could not proceed on the Voyage,) and sent by the *Phoenix* 23d Augst

<i>Ships Names</i>	<i>Masters Names</i>
<i>British Queen</i> -----	Corns Burton
<i>King George</i> -----	Robt Thompson
<i>Hope</i> -----	John Hyde
<i>Resolution</i> -----	Geo. Richardson
<i>Hellespont</i> -----	Jno Lester
<i>Layton</i> -----	Robt Johnson

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 509, NYHS Transcript.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, JULY 24 [1775].”¹

This morning a snow arrived in the Sound from Boston; what news she has brought we cannot tell, no person belonging to her being suffered to come on shore; the Captain is gone for London in a post chaise and four. It is said here that Boston has been burnt down, but by whom we do not know.

1. *London Chronicle*, July 27 to July 29, 1775.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Cerberus*, JAMES CHADS, COMMANDING¹

July [17]75 Moor'd at Spithead
 Monday 24 at 8 A M Bill Portland N E by E ½ E 4 Lgs at 12 Do N W 4 Lgs
 Mod Breezes & hazey at 1 P M Departed this Life Jno Falcon
 (Seaman) at 4 Committed the above Body to the Deep at 5
 runing in abreast of the Needles at 8 Anchd at Spithead wt Bt Br
 in 6 fm found here 7 Sl of the Line & 2 Sloops

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

JOHN POWNALL, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE, TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir, Whitehall, 24 July 1775

All the Arms and Ammunition, Cloathing and Accoutrements that can be Ship'd in the *Jacob* Captain Brown for Quebec, being now on board, as also all the Arms and Ammunition on board the *Maria*, Captain Dodsworth for Virginia, I am directed by Lord Dartmouth to request that orders may be given for those Store Ships to proceed on their Voyage without delay. —

If the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty should think fit to appoint a Convoy for these Store Ships, there needs no other particular Instructions to the Masters than to deliver the Stores on board to the respective Governors of Quebec and Virginia or to their orders; but it is presumed the Captain of His Majesty's Ship that shall be appointed to Convoy the Virginia Store Ship will continue her under his Protection untill the Stores She has on board are safely delivered; and in case the situation of Affairs in Virginia may make it unsafe for their being

delivered there, it is wished that She may then proceed under the same Convoy to Boston & deliver them to Genl [Thomas] Gage.

I am &ca

J. Pownall

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

25 July

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 25th July 1775

I received on the 17h Instant by Mr Nicholas your Letter of the 7h June and by Captain [James] Chads this Morning your several Letters of the 14h 16h 20h 22d & 26h of the same Month, and having laid them with their several Inclosures before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty I have it in command from their Lordships to acquaint you by this opportunity that they entirely approve of your proceedings; reserving myself to answer your Letters more at large by the *Cerberus* which will have orders to return to you in a few days, with dispatches from the Earl of Dartmouth to General [Thomas] Gage.

I have therefore only to add at this time, that some defects having been discovered in fitting the *Milford*, the *Niger* is ordered to supply her place and that in addition to the other Ships mentioned in my Letter of the 24h ultimo and 6h Instant their Lordships have ordered the *Chatham*, *Centurion* & *Renown* of 50 Guns, the *Orpheus* of 32 and the *Liverpool* of 28 to be fitted out with all possible dispatch, as a further reinforcement to you; that Rear Admiral [Molyneux] Shuldham will proceed in the *Chatham* to serve under your Command, and that Captain [Marriot] Arbuthnot is appointed a Commissioner of the Navy to reside at Halifax in Nova Scotia, for the better superintendence and dispatch of His Majesty's Naval Affairs in North America who will proceed thither without loss of time. I am &c

P: S:

(By the *Folkstone* Cutter)

NB. This Letter was returned to the Office, & sent by the *Phoenix*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/548, 515, NYHS Transcript.

REAR ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Craven Street [London] 25th July 1775

I have receiv'd their Lordships Order of the 19th Inst Directing me to repair to Portsmouth, & hoisting my Flag on bd His Maj's Ship *Chatham* at that Port, hold myself in readiness to proceed to Boston; & as that Ship is now under repair, & will not be ready to proceed for some time, I beg the favour you will Signifye my request to their Lordships that they will please to indulge me with leave to continue in town to settle my private affairs till the said Ship is near ready for Sea. I am [&c.]

M: Shuldham

[Minute] 25 July to be comply'd with

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484, LC Transcript.

Having received Advices not only that a great part of His Majesty's Subjects in the Southern Colonies have traiterously assembled in Arms against the King's Government, but that they have menaced Destruction to His Majesty's Servants there, who have no place of safety to resort to; and also that Boats full of armed men have been fitted out from the Province of South Carolina, which cruize and

commit hostilities on the Coasts of that & the neighbouring Province of Georgia; I am Commanded by The King to Signify to your Lordships His Majesty's Pleasure that one of His Majestys Ships of War now fitting out for North America, of a proper size for the Navigation of those Seas, be forthwith dispatched directly to the coast of Carolina & Georgia; And that the Commander do receive from your Lordships such Instructions as are proposed to be given to the Commanders of the different separate Squadrons under the command of Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves, by my Letter to your Lordships of the 21st Instant.

I am &ca

Dartmouth

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 28 July 1775

This Minister [Mylord Rochford] told me in confidence yesterday that a number of people in both parties were privately convinced that the way to end the war in America was to declare it on France. He added that he was sorry to see this opinion gaining credence. We discussed this question for a long time and most amicably: I can assure you, Sir, that everything said in favor of this opinion is most extraordinary and disquieting. The Spanish Alliance does not stop the supporters of this plan; they say that England successfully managed both this power and France together in the course of the last war and they support their theory with this example. They insist all the more because of the defeat which the Spaniards have just suffered and which will be a terrible blow to our political esteem here. They proclaim that the fear of an English defeat which would bring France back to Canada is the most effective scarecrow in the case of the Americans who dread the proximity of our religion and government; finally, they say that this war would force the Americans to give up their projects of freedom and decide between us or the British and that they certainly would show their preference for the latter. I can assure you, Sir, that Myd. Rochford himself is convinced of all that and I believe that these principles are most dangerous in the present circumstances. After all why is the Ministry of His British Majesty so peaceful towards us?

It is in order to keep their positions and they feel that they could not do so during a war which they are ill-fitted to wage. We should not seek nobler views on their part: for the same reason, they may become belligerent if they have nothing better to do and if the greater part of the Nation comes to want war.

As I feel compelled, Sir, to present these truths to the King and his Council, I must not either hide from them that it is equally necessary as it is dangerous to organise our defense: necessary, because we must not be taken by surprise; dangerous, because we would cause alarms here. Indeed, it is very difficult to find the middle course.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 511, LC Photocopy.

29 July

JOHN POWNALL, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE, TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir, Whitehall 29 July 1775

His Majesty's Commands having been signified to the Ordnance that the additional Supply of three Thousand stand of Arms for Quebec should be sent thither on board the *Lizard*, for which purpose they will be sent in Waggon to Portsmouth to Night.

I am directed by the Earl of Dartmouth to desire that the proper orders may be given for their being received on board, and upon the Ship's arrival delivered to Governor [Guy] Carleton or his order. –

I am &ca

J Pownall

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE ¹

Sr. Admty Office 29 July 1775

The Navy Board having informed my Lords Commissioners of the Admty that they have taken up the Brig *Elizabeth*, John Toone, Master, to carry Stores to Quebec, and that she is now ready, in all respects, to receive the same on board; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith for the Earl of Dartmouth's information.

I am Sr [&c.]

Ph^p Stephens

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

WILLIAM LEE TO JOHN ANDREW MEYER ¹Sir! London [29] July 75 ²

I duely recd yr favr of 30 Uto & note the Contents. You have now inclosed Jno Finch Bill dated 1 May Ulto: at 4½ Usy for £34.1.1 Sterg which hope will meet wth honor, when paid please to remit the value. We have just advice of Genl Engagemt in America between the Provincials & the Kings Troops in wch the Provinls were victorious ³ – This business will not end in some years & at last it is probable will be to the *irreparable* Injury of Great Britn Surely Tobo must rise now. This unhappy Civil War will be advantageous to the Comercial powers of Europe who now will have the wonderful benefit of the American trade which England had before entirely to herself I am &c

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

2. The date is approximated from the position of the letter in the letter book.

3. The battle of Bunker Hill.

APPOINTMENT OF MARRIOT ARBUTHNOT TO BE COMMISSIONER OF THE NAVY AT
HALIFAX ¹

George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and so forth, To our Trusty and well beloved Mariot Arbuthnot Esquire Greeting, Whereas we have thought fit for Our

Service that a Commissioner or principal Officer of our Navy should be established for the better Superintendance and dispatch of Our Naval Affairs in North America; Know You therefore that We reposing especial Trust and Confidence in the care, prudence, and Fidelity, of you the said Mariot Arbuthnot, of our especial Grace, certain knowledge, and meer Motion, and by and with the advice of our Commissioners for executing the Office of Our High Admiral of Great Britain, Have Constituted and Appointed, and by these Presents, – Do constitute and Appoint you the said Mariot Arbuthnot one of Our Commissioners in quality of principal Officer of Our Navy during Our pleasure. –

And we do hereby give and grant unto you the said Marriot Arbuthnot full power and Authority to sign Contracts Bills and Orders and to do all things else appertaining to a principal Officer and Commisioner of Our Navy to do; and of our more abundant Grace certain knowledge, and meer motion, We have ordained constituted and appointed, and by these Presents, Do ordain constitute and appoint you the said Mariot Arbuthnot Our Commissioner for the Superintendance of Our Naval Affairs in North America during Our pleasure, And do also direct and require you the said Mariot Arbuthnot constantly to reside and make your abode at Halifax in Nova Scotia, and to see to, and take care of, the faithful, vigorous and frugal management of all matters and things relating to Our Naval Service in North America, And we do hereby Authorize and require you the said Mariot Arbuthnot to observe such Instructions relating to your said Office and Duty as you shall at any time hereafter receive from Our High Admiral of Great Britain or Commissioners for executing the Office of our High Admiral of Great Britain for the time being, And further of our especial Grace; certain knowledge, and meer motion, We have given and granted, and by these Presents Do give and grant unto you the said Mariot Arbuthnot for the execution of the said Office, place or Employment during your continuance therein, the Yearly Salary or Allowance of Five hundred Pounds of Lawfull Money of Great Britain, together with such a number of Clerks at such Salaries and Allowances to them as shall be allowed by Our High Admiral of Great Britain or Commissioners for executing the Office of Our High Admiral of Great Britain for the time being, the said Salary or Allowance of Five hundred Pounds by the Year to be paid to you the said Mariot Arbuthnot or your Assigns by the Treasurer of Our Navy for the time being, out of such Money as he shall from time to time receive out of our Exchequer or otherwise, and to commence from the 19th day of July One Thousand seven hundred and seventy five, and to be computed and paid by the Day after the rate of Five hundred pounds by the year untill and upon the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel from thence next ensuing, and from thence the said Five hundred pounds by the year to be paid Quarterly by the Treasurer of Our Navy as aforesaid, at the hour most usual Feasts or Terms in the year (that is to say) the Feast of the Birth of our Lord Christ, the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Nativity of St John the Baptist, and Saint Michael the Archangel, by even and equal portions. And Lastly Our Will and pleasure is, and we do by these Presents grant unto you the said Mariot Arbuthnot, that these Our Letters patent or the Enrollment or Exemplification thereof shall be in all things good, firm, valid and effectual in the Law, notwithstanding any Omission Imperfection, defect,

matter, cause or thing, whatsoever to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

In Witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made patent. Witness ourself at Westminster the Twenty Ninth day of July in the fifteenth year of Our Reign.

By writ of Privy Seal

Yorke ²

1. Shelburne Papers, CL.

2. Philip Yorke, second Earl of Hardwicke.

DIARY OF JOHN BRAGG OF WHITEHAVEN, ENGLAND ¹

7 Mo 29 [1775]

General Thos Gage who has been appointed Governor of the Massachusetts bay having an Army at Boston & that Province in a State of Rebellion he issues out a proclamation throughout that Province, setting before them the dangerous & destructive Measures they have adopted, at the same time offers to those who will submit & laydown their arms a free pardon, all and ever of the Offenders, exceptg Samuel Adams & John Hancock, being two of their Chiefs dated at Boston the 12th of June 1775, all Laws but the Martial Law to be laid by & Suspended till a reconciliation goes over 3 Generals [William] Howe, [Henry] Clinton & [John] Burgoine

arrived News by the Gazett of an Engagement at Charles Town & Bunker Hill between the Kings forces & the provincials wherein the Americans appear to beat off the field, with the loss of many of the British Soldiers above a thousand killed, & wounded,² in which Number a great many officers are included, it happened 6/17 75.

1. WPL.

2. Bragg later corrected the estimate and inserted the figure 828.

WILLIAM LEE TO GEORGE MASON ¹

Dear Sir!

London 29 July 1775

The *Adventure* Capt Brown is arriv'd & brot me yr very obliging favr of June 1st wth 100 hhds of yr Tobo wch. I before wrote you via Phila were insured according to yr orders. You may be assured of my best endeavors to return you satisfactory Sales, but the situation of things here is so perplexed & alarming that it is impossible to judge with precision whether it will be best to sell now or wait the Winter market; for my own part I am well inclined to think the prices are now as high as they will be for 6 Mos to come & if the event of parliamtary interposition wch you apprehend, & not with out reason, shd interfere things will not mend. When we consider the great loss of weight, especially when Tobo is landed at this season of the year it is perhaps most advantageous to sell as soon as possible, however as I am fortunately not in distress for money, you may rely on my acting as appears to me most beneficial for you. The present prices, tho' no great demand, are for export 3¼ to 4 P lb for the best stout, wavy & black Jas River Tobo The home consumption price not better, unless for the finest York river & clean good stemd Tobo It is clear to me that the American trade

to G.B. can never be restored to its former channel. I have more at stake in this business than most people, however the love I have for my Country, as well as an ardent affection for universal Liberty makes me submit with patience to the decrees of Providence which I am convinced over rules in this unhappy contest between G.B. & the Colonies; – therefore am sure, as *Justice* is the most amiable attribute of an almighty direction, that you must in the end be successful. – We have only the Ministl Act of the Bloody engagemt on the 17 June at Charles Town near Boston, wch from thence appears greatly to the disadvantage of the Regulars. The Ministers still have no thought of relentg & fresh supplies of Arms & Ammunition are preparing to be sent to Boston – All I can say is, *Quen Deus vult perdere, prius dementat* – America must now be a great Empire or a sink for Slaves – Mrs. Lee & my Br are much obliged by yr kind Remembrance & I am &c –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO JOHN MILLS ¹

Dr Sir!

London 29 July 75

Capt Brown of the *Adventure* arriv'd & brot me 35 hhds of yr Tobo wch I shall do the best with in my power for yr Ints Yr favr of May 31 I shall attend to, in every respect, tho' the intercourse between G: B & America is to be stop'd for some time yet I shall expect you will remit me as much as you can & as fast as possible. This going via Phila I cannot send yr Acct of Sale for the Tobo P Outram last year, but I think they will please you when you get them. As this is an uncertain conveyance must beg you to advise my Brs R. H. Lee and F. L. Lee of Capt Browns arrival & that we are all well. – Yr Sister is well, but yr Mother still continues as she has been for some time I am &c

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

31 July

“ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY]
DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA” ¹

1775

31st July –

The Kings pleasure was signified by [William Henry Zuytlestein]
Lord Rockford for Transports to be taken up to carry the 17th
27th 28th & 55th Regiments of Foot from Ireland to Boston, And
Orders were next day given for that purpose.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

2 Aug.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 2d August 1775.

The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury having transmitted to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty Extract of a Letter from His Majesty's Envoy at Lisbon, relative to Ships suspected of carrying on an illicit Trade with North America; As also Copy of a Letter from Mr Sweetland at Gibraltar dated

the 8h of May last, relative to Vessels which he apprehends may during the present Disputes Trade from that place to America direct; I am commanded by their Lordships to send you the inclosed Copies of the said Papers for your Information. And am &c.

P: S:

(By the *Cerberus* at Portsmouth)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/549, 7, NYHS Transcript.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

By &c.

Capt [John] Symons Commr of His Majesty's Ship the *Cerberus* (by whom you will receive this) being directed to put himself under your command & follow your Orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required & directed to take him under your command accordingly & employ him & the said Ship in such manner as you shall find best for His Majts Service entrusted to your care. Given &c 2d Augt 1775.

C. Spencer
H. Penton
H. Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 4, NYHS Transcript.

JOHN STARKE, SAILING MASTER, TO CAPTAIN JOHN HAMILTON, R.N.¹

(Copy)

Lizard Spithead 2d Augt 1775.

Sir, In obedience to your Order to be informed what quantity of small Arms can be carried in the ship to Quebeck (communicated to me by the Commanding Officer this day) I have examin'd every part of the ship, & am to inform you that she is so crouded with the Provisions & stores already on board, that there is not room for a single Chest of Arms in any part of her; there being between Decks 66 Casks of Provisions & a great part of the Boatswains & Carpenters Stores, which the proper places allotted for them will not contain, beside an additional Quantity of Provisions must necessarily be put there to make room in the Hold for the Wine or Spirits, which is also part of the Ships Stores when they come on board.

I am &c [&c.]

Jn^o Starke, Master

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

LORD DARTMOUTH TO LORD DUNMORE ¹

No 23

Whitehall 2nd August 1775.

My Lord The hope you held out to us in your letter of the 1st of May that with a supply of arms and ammunition you should be able to collect from amongst Negroes Indians and other persons a force sufficient if not to subdue Rebellion at least to defend Governt -- was very encouraging; but as I find by your letters delivered to me by Lt [Henry] Collins that you have been obliged from the violence of the times, menaced by one branch of the Legislature and abandoned

by the other, to yield up all the powers of Govern^t. and to retire yourself on board the *Fowey*, I have the King's commands to send you His Majty's leave to return to England, which together with this letter and a Commission to Mr Corbin to administer Govern^t. during your absence will be delivered to you by Captⁿ [Christopher] Atkins of His Majty's Ship *Actaeon*, who goes Convoy to the *Maria* Store Ship.

At the same time it is left to your Lordp's discretion to use this leave of absence or not, as you shall see occasion, for relying upon your firmness I have still a hope that with the supply of arms now sent to you and with the assistance of a greater Naval force, the King's Govern^t. in Virginia may yet be maintained; and should this happily be the case, it will not be necessary that Mr. Corbin should be informed of His Majty's intention in his favour I am &c.

Dartmouth

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/1353.

3 Aug.

JOHN POWNALL TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir,

Whitehall 3d. August 1775.

Having received Intelligence through Channels that may be depended upon that a great number of North American Vessels, do constantly resort to Cape Nicholas Mole and other Ports in the Island of Hispaniola, where they load with French produce and also secretly take in large Quantities of Arms and Ammunition; I think it my duty in the Absence of Lord Dartmouth to acquaint you therewith, to the end that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty may give such Instructions thereupon to the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships in the West Indies as they shall think expedient, and I beg Leave to add that persons well informed of the nature and course of this Contraband Trade say, that the most effectual means of intercepting the Vessels that carry it on, would be by stationing two Cruizers, the one at Heneago or Inagua Island, the other at the little Caicos.

I am &ca

J. Pownall

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY] DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA" ¹

1775 Captⁿ [Christopher] Atkins of the *Aceton* was directed in pursuance of
3 Aug the King's pleasure signified by [William Legge] the Earl of Dartmouth on the 28th ult. to proceed immediately with the *Maria* Ordnance Storeship to Virginia & then repair to South Carolina with Instructions similar to those given to Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves on the 6th of last Month, to prevent any Commerce unless with Great Britain &c to search every Ship or Vessel going into or out of the Ports and to seize and detain them upon discovery of contraband Trade & to cause it to be publicly signified &c. &c.
Captⁿ Atkins was at the same time directed in case he found the *Tamer* Sloop at South Carolina to dispatch her away to Georgia & to give

her her Commander similar Orders for his proceedings there unless he should learn that Vice Admiral Graves had already provided for that Service.

N B. The *Acteon* having run ashore and received damage soon after she sailed was obliged to put back to Portsmouth to be repair'd, And the *Liverpoole* Captn [Henry] Bellew, was order'd to supply her place.

Vice Admiral Graves acquainted that as it appeared by the disposition of his Squadron that only one Frigate was station'd at Halifax for the protection of the Magazines there and as the place was become the only one on the Continent of America where the Ships of his Squadron could be refitted or repaired, or from whence they could receive any Supply of Stores, it was of the utmost importance to His Majesty's Service that the Yard & Magazines there should be secured against any attack from the Rebels, And it was therefore earnestly recommended to him to concert with General Gage the most effectual Measures to be taken for that purpose, Understanding that the General would have received His Majesty's Commands on that head.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

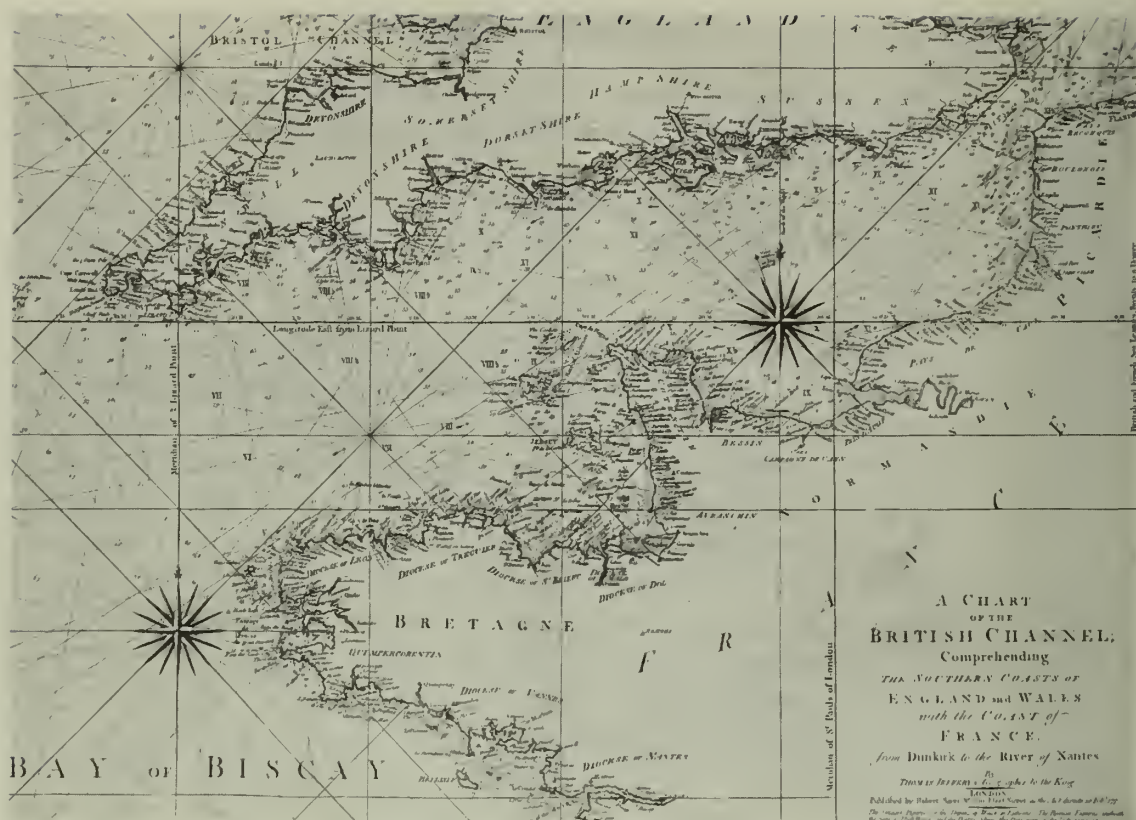
PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 3d Augt 1775

In my Letter of the 25th of last Month by the *Folkstone* Cutter I acknowledged generally the receipt of your Letters of the 7th 14th 16th 20th 22d & 26th of June; I now set down to answer in detail such of them as require it, And beginning with the first, in which you give an Account of the *Diana* Schooner being attacked & burnt by the Rebels and inclose the sentence of the Court Martial held for enquiring into the cause of the loss of her; I am to acquaint you that their Lordships are well satisfied with the testimony given by the Court, and with what you have related, of the gallant Behaviour of the Lieutenant who commanded her, and of her Company in general But they cannot for reasons that must be obvious to you think of making a precedent of compensating the Officers & Crew of the Kings Ships destroyed by the Enemy for the losses they may sustain on such occasions. The Cases of the *Diana* & *Gaspee* are by no means similar; Nor do I find that the information you have received of a compensation being made to the Crew of the latter is well founded.

Their Lordships approve of the application you made to Genl [Thomas] Gage to have the Boats at Boston belonging to the Rebels delivered to you for the Kings use; And they command me to acquaint you that as Flat bottom'd Boats may be very useful to you they have ordered Twenty to be forthwith provided capable of receiving 40 Soldiers & 16 Rowers each to be sent out by the Transports that are now directed to be taken up to carry 5 Regiments of Foot from Cork to Boston over & above the Yawls & Cutters which you have already



(Top) Section from a chart of the English Channel, 1775. (Bottom) British ship-of-the-line (second rate), c. 1808.

been informed the Navy Board are directed to send to you; And as their Lordships apprehend that there may be a want of Fewell at Boston they have it in contemplation to order the Transports abovementioned to be ballasted with Coals for the use of the Fleet & Army; as also to cause the Ships of War which shall hereafter be sent to you, to take in an extra quantity. —

Their Lordships will in consideration of what you represented as to the great discount as well as uncertainty of getting Money at Boston for Bills, direct the Navy Board to send to their Officer there a proper supply of Mony for the use of the Naval Department.

Their Lordships having taken into their consideration the Disposition you have sent them of the Squadron of His Majestys Ships under your command as also what you represent as to the want of more Ships to enable you to supply particular & urgent Applications from almost all the Colonies for protection & assistance, and for preventing improper Commerce & communication, have come to a Resolution to augment the Reinforcement that is preparing to be sent out to you; And conceiving that the Force mentioned in the inclosed Scheme will enable you to perform in the most effectual manner the Services upon which you are employed, They command me to inform you that in addition to the Ships mentioned in my Letters of the 24th June, 6 & 25th Ultmo which were then actually fitting out, and are now in great forwardness, they have ordered the *Cerberus*, by which you will receive this to remain under your command, and will send seven more Frigates to you of 32 & 28 Guns as soon as they can be got ready, to complete the Force beforementioned: But altho' you will find by the said Scheme that particular Numbers of Ships & Vessels are allotted to each of the Colonies within the extent of your command, their Lordships do not mean that you should therefore confine yourself to the disposing of your Force precisely in that manner, but leave it intirely to you to make such other disposition of it as you shall judge most likely to answer the important Objects to which it is to be directed.

The *Lizard* is now at Spithead under Orders to Convoy a Storeship freighted with Arms & Military Stores & Cloathing to Quebec, and then to repair to Boston. The *Actaeon* is also under Orders to Convoy from the Downes a Storeship freighted in like manner to Virginia and then to proceed to South Carolina, where, it has been represented, the presence of a Frigate is absolutely necessary But if you have made any other provision for that Colony and Georgia, you will in that case send such directions to Capt [Christopher] Atkins Commr of the *Actaeon* as you shall judge proper for his further proceedings

You will have observed by my former Letters their Lordships anxiety for the return of the three Guardships to England before the Winter sets in, and that the 50 & 44 Gun Ships are sent to you with a view to supply their Places; I am therefore to signify their Lordships direction to you that, so soon as any three of those 50 or 44 Gun Ships shall arrive at Boston, you do direct the Captains of the three Guardships to proceed immediately with them to England or at least two of them, and the third as soon afterwards as the Nature and importance of the Service upon which she is employed will admit of it.

I have acquainted you in former Letters that Mr [Marriot] Arbuthnot is ordered to proceed to Halifax in the quality of a Commissioner of His Majestys Navy for the better dispatch of His Majestys Naval Affairs in North America, that the Navy Board are directed to send out a supply of Stores for the Squadron under your command; It is their Lordships intention to send out further Supplies of every thing that may be requisite to enable you to carry on the important Services intrusted to your care; And they therefore recommend it to you to send them in your future Letters particular Accounts of the quantities & Species of Stores which you conceive may be necessary for that purpose.

Their Lordships also wish to receive with your next Letter an Account of the quantity and Specie of Provisions, not only on board of the Ships under your command, but what is in store for their use, And also the supplies which you can depend upon receiving from the Contractors, shewing how long the same will serve the whole Squadron at full Allowance

Their Lordships observe by the disposition you have sent them of the Force under your command that only One Frigate is stationed at Halifax for the protection of the Magazines there, But as Halifax is now become the only Place on the Continent of America where the Ships of your Squadron can be refitted or repaired, or from whence they can receive any supply of Stores they may stand in need of, It is of the utmost importance to His Majestys Service that His Naval Yard and Magazines there should be secured against attack from the Rebels: And their Lordships therefore earnestly recommend it to you to concert with Genl [Thomas] Gage the most effectual Measures to be taken for that Purpose understanding that the General will have received His Majestys Commands upon that head.

Their Lordships are of Opinion that it may be useful for the Ships that are to be sent out to you to be furnished with the private Signals you have made for the Ships of your Squadron to know each other; And I am to desire you will send me by the first safe conveyance a Copy of those Signals that their Lordships may distribute them as they see occasion &c

P S

By the *Cerberus*

Scheme of the Naval Force intended to be employed on the Coast of North America

	<i>Ships</i>	<i>Guns</i>	
At Boston	3-----	50	To lie before the Town attend the operations of the Army, secure the Transports, guard the passes & Cruize off the Port & Coast.
	1-----	44	
	8 Frigates		
	6 Sloops		
	4 Schooners		

22

Rhode Island----- 3 Frigates ----- one at each pass & one Cruizing

[Scheme of the Naval Force intended to be employed on the Coast of North America—Continued]

	<i>Ships</i>	<i>Guns</i>	
New York	<div><div>2-----50</div><div>3 Frigates</div><div>3 Sloops</div></div>		Two before the Town three Cruizing and three at the entrance of the River
	8		
Delawar River-----	2 Frigates-----		One within the other Cruizing
Virginia	<div><div>1-----44</div><div>3 Frigates</div><div>3 Sloops</div><div>1 Schooner</div></div>		One at York, three in the Bay of Cheesepeck three to Cruize off the Cape on the Coast.
	8		
Carolinas & Georgia	<div><div>2 Frigates</div><div>2 Sloops</div></div>		Two in Port, Two Cruizing
	4		
River St Lawrence--	2 Schooners		
Florida -----	1 Schooner		
Total -----	50		

Abstract of the whole.

<i>Ships</i>	<i>Guns</i>	<i>now there</i>	<i>going</i>	<i>more wanted</i>
5 -----	50-----	1-----	4-----	
2 -----	44-----		2-----	
21. Frigates-----		7-----	7-----	7-----
14. Sloops-----		14-----		
8. Schooners-----		8-----		
50		30	13	7

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/549, 13, NYHS Transcript.

CAPTAIN JOHN HAMILTON, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

(Copy) *Lizard Spithead 3d August 1775*
Sir, I herewith acknowledge your Letter of the 31st of July with the Lords Commissioners Orders and directions to take on board 3000 Stands of Arms, Contained in one hundred and Twenty Chests, designed for Quebeck in the Ship I

command I beg leave to observe to their Lordships that His Majesty's Ship *Lizard* has a very small hold, stowes her Stores and Provisions very badly having a great Part thereof between Decks already, and much Cumbered in consequence of their Lordships order I have given an Order to the Master of the *Lizard* to make the best stowedge, and report to me under his hand what number of Chests he will be able to take into the said Ship free from Weather and Damage who informs me he can take in no part of the said arms, the Ship being so full already, without leaving part of our Provision and have inclosed the Masters Report to their Lordships. I beg leave to observe that the Arms are stowed in common Deal Cases and cannot be exposed to the Weather.

I am &ca

John Hamilton

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

4 Aug.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sir

Admty Office 4 Aug. 1775

My Lords Commissrs of the Admty having received a Letter from Captain [John] Hamilton of His Majts Ship the *Lizard*, who had their Lordships Order to receive on board 3000 Stand of Arms, contained in 120 Chests, designed for Quebec, informing their Lordships that the Ship is so full already, that she can take no part of the said Arms, without leaving part of her Provisions behind; I am commanded by their Lordships to send you the inclosed Copy of the said letter, as also One from the Master of the said Ship to Capt Hamilton, upon this Subject, for the Earl of Dartmouth[']s information.

I am Sr [&c.]

Ph^p Stephens

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

WILLIAM LEE TO JOHN PONSONBY ¹

Sir!

London 4 Augst 75

I duely recd yr favor of 28th Ultio incolsg J: Busby's sevl dfts value £150 wch: when paid will be to yr credt, being already acceptd Yr other dft on me pble the 11th Inst Our markets for Tobo is not very brisk at prest for as ships are dropg in every day the Buyers keep off, especially as Sr Robt. Herries has purchased a large qty in Virga & Maryld with Some Scotch Cargoes coming here makes the purchasers believe they may have it at their own price. The exports are now from 3½ to 4½ P lb as in quality, but I am of opinion it must rise as the exports from America will certainly cease in Sept if not sooner. Dorset is still in custody, the acceptor of his dft: has not complied with his engagmt – as this is a long vacation am in doubt whether it is not most advisable to try him a month longer, but if you think proper he shall be arrested immediately I am &c –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO JOHN BALLENTINE & Co ¹

Gent

London 4 Augst 75

I am duely favd with yrs of the 27th Ulto & hold myself obliged by yr care in filling up the indorsemt of the bill. – I find Mr Russell pd Wm Pierces dft: on him to Thos Blane for £13 the 10th of last Sept wch was indorsed thus – “Pay the contents to Messrs John Ballantine & Co.” “John Waterson” – Witness for Dimsdale & Co.” (a name I cannot make out). Sr Robt Herries has speculated largely in buying Tobo in Virga & Maryld wch wth some Glasgow Cargoes clog this market. The common price is $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{3}{4}$ & very fine 4d wch is lower than any market in Europe. Our ships are dropg in every day wch helps to keep us at a stand, but those who can forbear to sell, in my opinion, will before Xtmas make good Intst for their money. We have not recd of late any material intelligence from America – but I am sorry to say the designs of Administration agst that devoted Country are as inimical as ever – they mean to make the brave Highlanders of Scotland & the Roman Catholicks of Ireland & Canada the instruments of their vengeance; therefore, (untill there is a change of Ministers) we must bid adieu to American Commerce. I am &c –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 4 August 1775

The Spanish affair seems to have the most disturbing results here. The King of England had the courtesy to forbid that any reference to this matter be made in the Gazette of the Court. He did not speak of it to the Prince of Masseran; ² but he conversed a long time about it with me trustingly and *with pleasure*. From the details which this Prince has received, it is obvious that the Walloon and Spanish Guards forming the vanguard went into action without awaiting the completion of the landing, an unfortunate result from the lack of discipline to which many people would still substitute the “esprit de corps”. The King of England cannot conceive how the Admiral could land all his supplies in the thirty hours time which the troops spent on shore, putting himself into such a position that he could not shell Algiers. It seems that there was in this expedition a frightening intrigue which caused its failure. His British Majesty seemed to be convinced of that; He even said so to me in the greatest secret, adding that it was intended for me alone; those were his words. I must not keep any secrets from the King, and I throw myself on the caution which His Majesty will deem necessary to show in making use of this information. . . .

Yesterday I saw Milady Dunmore who just arrived from Virginia. She told me the dreadful story of all that goes on there. She was almost arrested as a hostage. Her husband hardly had the time to put her on board ship and himself take refuge on board a ship. However, at the time of his departure he had not yet taken the decision, which I mentioned to you in my preceding letters

to free all the negroes. The position of this Colony is all the more interesting because it is the most populated in all Northern America. I enclose a copy of the message she presented for Lord Dunmore. It is remarkable, Sir, in as much as it shows: first, the well established claim to the freedom of trade, which is, as I always stated because it is so, an unsurmountable obstacle to any conciliation; secondly, the opinion about Mylord Chatham which is still held in this part of the world and the effect it may have in the latter.

Five Infantry Regiments from Ireland have received the order to embark on 10 September for America, as well as a detachment of Artillery with a complement of 200 men, and two to three thousand recruits. I was told by Mylord Barrington, Secretary of War, that they would add two Cavalry Regiments to this expedition. The frigate *Lizard* has sailed for Quebec. Since the report I sent you on the 23rd of last month, two other frigates and a corvette have been ordered to sail for Boston. Thus, the number of troops now in America or under orders to go there comes to 17,796 men, the number of warships comes to 62 and the number of sailors to 10,410. This is quite a number of people and ships. The expedition of Cavalry Regiments seems to deserve some attention for it is a fact that the dragoons, now in Boston, are of no use whatever; the interior of the country is so interce[p]ted by walls and ditches that, should one be able to penetrate it, the cavalry would be most ill at ease. Besides, the precence of all these troops is not in agreement with what Mylord Rochford always stated to me, *the project of war by means of the sea*. Truly, Sir, you can see from my last dispatches that this Minister is not very consistent. But he constantly refers to this plan by which war at sea and ruination of the trade are the only means to subdue the Americans unfailingly. Lately he even used in this matter a rather unusual comparison which he gave me as the basis for the decisions taken by the Council of the King of England. "Sir, he said to me, we, at the Council, are convinced that it would be just as impossible to persuade the Americans to do without luxury as it would be to persuade ourselves and every one of us to do without clairet wine." This policy is neither noble, nor sober; and I believe that it befits them more than the Americans. Be that as it may, it is their policy, and an Army on land is absolutely useless for the purpose of ruining the American trade, purpose, however, which the said policy proclaims as the only principle governing the English operations and views.

The affairs in Canada are becoming serious, and I do not doubt that Mylord Rochford gave me a false piece of news when he positively said to me that he had good reason to rely entirely upon the Canadians. . . . I know from someone who just arrived from Quebec and Montreal that public opinion there is anything but disposed to take the side of England. Apparently, the raising of the militia is encountering a great deal of difficulty. If it is to take place, it will only be by force.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 511, 287, LC Photocopy.

2. Spanish Ambassador to England.

5 Aug.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Admty Office 5th August 1775

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having ordered Lieutenant Colonel Collins to proceed to Boston and take upon him the command of His Majestys Marine Forces serving on Shore in North America in the room of the late Major [Thomas] Pitcairn, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint your Excellency therewith and have the honor to be [&c.]

Ph^p Stephens

1. Gage Papers, CL.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 5th August 1775

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having sent to you by the *Folkstone* Cutter Orders to examine all Letters which may be found on board Merchant Ships or Vessels bound to, or from North America, and to transmit such as are therein described to them for the information of the Earl of Dartmouth, One of His Majts Principal Secretaries of State, I send you herewith an attested Copy of the said Orders by the *Cerberus* which is on the point of sailing; there not being a sufficient number of their Lordships in the way to sign a Duplicate, in order that you may be apprized of His Majesty's Pleasure with respect to the above Business and take proper Measures for carrying the same into execution; in case by any accident the *Folkstone* should not happen to arrive before the above Ship I am &ca

Ph^p Stephens

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, NYHS Transcript.

JOHN POWNALL TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Whitehall 5th August 1775

In consequence of your Letter to me of yesterday's date, I have sent directions to Mr Alderman Harley to lose no time in hastening the Cloathing and Accoutrements that are to go in the *Elizabeth* Store Ship; the Goods for Indian presents will be put on board on Tuesday [August 8].

As I find by a Letter from Mr Boddington that the *Lizard* cannot take the additional Supply of Arms for Quebec sent down to Portsmouth, I am to request that they may be put on board the *Elizabeth* and that she may have orders to call at Portsmouth for that purpose.

I am &ca

J Pownall

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/121, LC Transcript.

"ABSTRACT OF THE MOST MATERIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THIS [BRITISH ADMIRALTY]
DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA"¹

1775 The several Ships & Transports going out to take with them an Extra
5th Augt quantity of Coals, to Boston.

1. Germain Papers, CL.

6 Aug. (Sunday)

BRITISH INTELLIGENCE REPORT¹

[Extract]

Received 6 August 1775

What I have been able to collect from the two French Officers, by employing every art, and all the address I am master of, amounts to what follow's . . .²

That during their stay in America, seven French Ships, marked under English colors, came into Different ports with ammunition &ca, and that these Ships would have risked an engagement rather than submit to be visited by a small ship of war, had they been met by one.

That The Americans expected French & Spanish Officers & Engineers, also Powder &ca, to be carried over from time to time, in small numbers, & in small quantities, not only by ships directly from England & our West Indies, but by French & Spanish Ships from their Islands, such ships to appear to be American property, & to be manned chiefly with American sailors, that the European courts may not be detected, should such ships be taken.

1. B. F. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles of Manuscripts in European Archives Relating to America 1773-1783* (London, 1889-95), No. 1301.

2. The information in this report was apparently obtained from two French officers who had come from the West Indies by way of North America and who had spent some time with the American forces around Boston.

7 Aug.

WILLIAM LEE TO JOHN BALLENTINE & Co¹

Dr Gent

London 7 Augst 75

I wrote you the 4th Inst to wch. be pleased to refer. You have now inclosed Robt Burtons dft pble in London at 60 dys sight for £60 on Messrs Alspiers & Co wch please to get acceptd & return to me in course of Post. Several ships have this day [arrived] in the various ports of G B. from diff't ports of America but they bring nothing new; there seems now but one voice & that is for defendg their rights & Liberties to the last extremity

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

WILLIAM LEE TO WILLIAM HICKS¹

Dear Sir!

London 7 August 1775

Yr favor of the 16th Ult'o is before me & the contents are noted. The dispute with America seems to me farther than ever from being settled for our abominable Ministers are determined to persevere in their wicked plans which if pursued a year or two longer must ruin this Country beyond redemption.

Nothing can stop their phrenzey, but the interposition of the people of England. You have enclosed John Skeltons dft pble in London at 60 dys sight for £500 wch please to get acceptd & return to me in course. When you see my Nephews be pleased to give my Love to them & let them know I expect to hear from them soon. Several ships have arrived at various ports this day from America but I do not understand they have brot any fresh intelligence; The Americans are determined to persevere & that unitedly in defence of our comon Liberties. A great many ships arriving here just at this time keeps down the price of Tobo but I am satisfied that in 6 Mos it must rise immensely high I am &c. –

1. William Lee Letter Book, VHS.

COUNT DE VERGENNES, FRENCH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TO COUNT DE GUINES, AMBASSADOR TO GREAT BRITAIN ¹

Sir

Versailles, Aug. 7, 1775

I have told the King of the offers of zeal and good will that the sr [Achard] de Bonvouloir attached to the Cape regiment has made to you. His Majesty authorizes you to assure him of his gratitude and that he will properly reward the services he is disposed to render him. I have the honor to be [&c.]

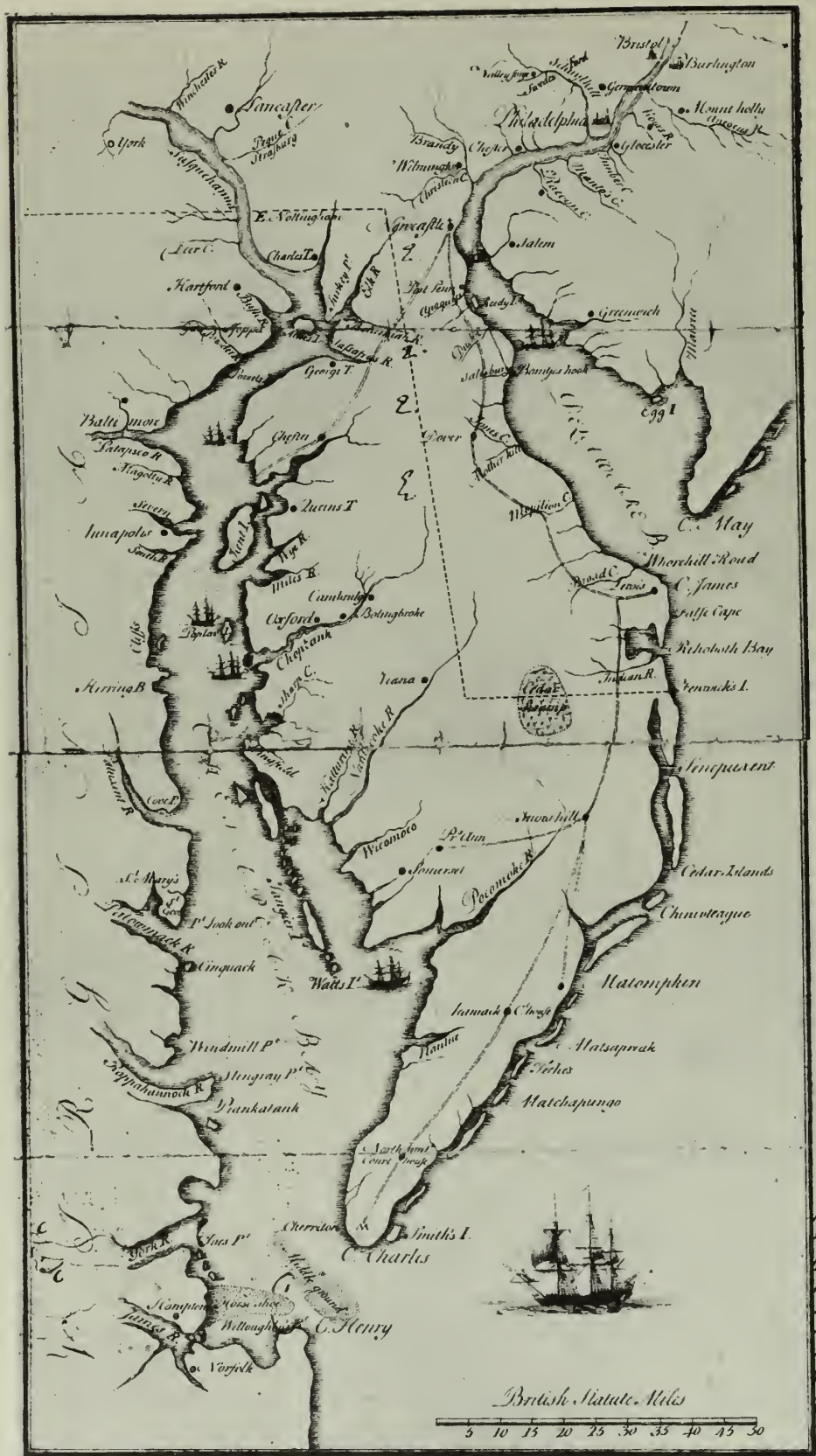
1. Henri Doniol, *Histoire de la participation de la France à l'établissement des États-Unis d'Amérique* (Paris, 1886–92), I, 156, translation. Hereafter cited as Doniol, *Histoire*.

COUNT DE VERGENNES, FRENCH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TO COUNT DE GUINES, AMBASSADOR TO GREAT BRITAIN ¹

7 Augst 1775, Versailles

I have shown the King, Sir, the proposition you made of bringing about the return to America of M. [Achard] de Bonvouloir whose acquaintances in, and understanding of, that country are known to you. I do not doubt but what you are sure he is what he says he is, for I must warn you that there is nothing in the Navy Bureau which proves that this Frenchman has been attached in any capacity to the Cape regiment. At any rate, His Majesty has arranged that M. de Sartines at your request draw up a commission as Lieutenant on the staff of the regiment: you will find it enclosed. As for the annual payment of 200 Louis that you propose, the King will authorize it and you will draw on me for extra charges for quarters; but the King in granting you this sum does not intend that you should give up what you proposed in procuring intelligence in the Bureau of Plantations. If it is interesting to be instructed about what happens in North America, it is equally interesting to know what orders can be sent there and even into the other colonies; this knowledge could only spread out some day over the existence of the project you suspect. The King strongly approves your resolution is sending M. de Bonvoiloir, with enough precaution that in any case his mission cannot compromise us. I believe we can allow him to take service among the rebels if his taste carries him there; he is a soldier of fortune whose personal steps can never be of consequence. We must be sure our correspondence cannot be intercepted. You should reduce his instructions, which can only be verbal, to two matters which seem to me to be the most essential: one, to render

APPENDICES



A map of Delaware and Chesapeake Bays, 1781.

APPENDIX A

A list of all Ships and Vessels which have cleared OUTWARDS in the Port of
Annapolis in Maryland ¹

[Extract]

[Omitted are: when and where built, where last registered, by whom owned, and where a bond, if any, was given. Purely coastwise vessels also are omitted]

1774

- | | | |
|--------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Decemr | 1 | Brig <i>Geddis</i> , John Harrison, Master, 50 tons, 7 men, bound for
Liverpool
3500 Bushels of Wheat, 1400 Staves & Heading |
| | 2 | Ship <i>Delaware</i> , Alexander Cain, Master, 150 tons, 12 men, bound
for Lisbon
12700 Bushels of Wheat |
| | 10 | Schooner <i>Hannah</i> , Theophilus Russell, Master, 40 tons, 6 men,
bound for Barbadoes
450 Bbbs of Bread & Flour, 50 Bbbs Herrings, 1 Hhd of Tobacco, 20
Barrels of Pork, 3700 Staves & Headings, 2250 Hoops |
| | 19 | Ship <i>Margaret</i> , Robert Spear, Master, 120 tons, 12 men, bound for
Genoa
11265 Bushels of Wheat |
| | 20 | Ship <i>Friendship</i> , Peter Young, Master, 150 tons, 14 men, bound
for Bristol
15041 Bushels of Wheat, 27 Barrels of Flour |
| | 22 | Snow <i>Fanny</i> , John Tanner, Master, 60 tons, 6 men, bound for Vigo
6500 Bushels of Wheat |
| | 23 | Brig <i>Carpenter</i> , Samuel Jenkins, Master, 100 tons, 6 men, bound
for Milford
7112 Bushels of Wheat, 100 Barrels of Flour |
| | 24 | Ship <i>Richard Penn</i> , Isaac All, Master, 200 tons, 10 men, bound for
Leghorn
12700 Bushels of Wheat, 20 Barrels of Flour |
| | 24 | Ship <i>Elizabeth</i> , Wm Campbell, Master, 180 tons, 11 men, bound
for Barcelona
6500 Bushels of Wheat, 150 Barrels of Flour |

- 24 Brig *Conclusion*, Joseph Newman, Master, 90 tons, 7 men, bound for Bilboa
950 Barrels of Flour
- 24 Brig *Sam*, Robt Forsyth, Master, 80 tons, 10 men, bound for Genoa
6000 Bushels of Wheat, 270 Barrels of Flour
- 24 Ship *Charming Sally*, Felix McGinnes, Master, 160 tons, 12 men, bound for Falmouth
8000 Bushels of Wheat
- 24 Ship *Philadelphia*, John Winning, Master, 100 tons, 12 men, bound for Lisbon
1200 Barrels of Flour
- 24 Snow *Potowmack*, Archibald Graham, Master, 140 tons, 12 men, bound for Cork
200 Hhds of Flaxseed, 200 Barrels of Flour, 10000 Staves & Heading
- 24 Ship *John*, Charles Evans, Master, 140 tons, 10 men, bound for Belfast
6000 Bushels of Wheat, 1000 Barrels of Flour, 30000 Staves & Heading
- 26 Ship *William*, James Thomas, Master, 200 tons, 15 men, bound for Bristol
6375 Bushels of Wheat, 1375 Barrels of Flour, 8640 Staves & Heading
- 26 Brig *Isabella Ann*, Chas Dashiell, Master, 60 tons, 10 men, bound for Lisbon
1000 Barrels of Flour, 4500 Staves & Heading
- 27 Ship *Elizabeth*, Morto Downey, Master, 100 tons, 13 men, bound for Tortola
500 Bushels of Corn, 20 Barrels of Flour, 20000 Staves & Headings,
200 Bushels Pease, 5000 feet Scantling, 10000 feet Pine Boards,
10000 Shingles
- 27 Brig *Peggy Ann*, Abraham Walton, Master, 50 tons, 8 men, bound for Tortola
200 Bushels of Corn, 60 Barrels of Flour, 60 Barrels and 100 Kegs Bread,
5000 Staves & Heading, 10000 Shingles, 1000 Hoops
- 28 Ship *Hawk*, Jacob Getsheus, Master, 100 tons, 10 men, bound for Lisbon
13987 Bushels of Wheat, 29 Barrels of Flour
- 29 Snow *Betsey*, William Waud, Master, 100 tons, 9 men, bound for Lisbon
1200 Barrels of Flour

- 30 Ship *Prince George*, James Bartholomew, Master, 170 tons, 13 men,
bound for Genoa
11000 Bushels of Wheat

1775

- Janry 2 Snow *Penn*, Sampson Harvey, Master, 150 tons, 9 men, bound for
Lisbon
1040 Bushels of Corn, 7215 Bushels of Wheat, 18 Barrels of Flour
- 2 Brig *Betsey*, John Fossey, Master, 80 tons, 7 men, bound for
Liverpool
4300 Bushels of Corn, 300 Barrels of Flour, 1000 Staves & Heading,
40 Boat boards
- 4 Schooner *Dolphin*, Henry Killam, Master, 60 tons, 3 men, bound
for St Vincents
30 Bbls Herrings, 30 Bbls Mackrell, 2000 Bushels of Corn, 270
Barrels of Flour, 300 Staves & Heading
- 4 Ship *Warwick*, Charles Smyth, Master, 140 tons, 9 men, bound for
Lisbon
8300 Bushels of Wheat
- 9 Schooner *Industry*, John Blakeney, Master, 35 tons, 5 men, bound
for Antigua
70 Barrels of Pork, 130 Barrels of Flour, 200 Barrels of Bread, 1
Ton of Bar Iron 6000 Staves & Heading, 2000 Hoops, 5000
Shingles
- 9 Schooner *Sally & Polly*, Nathaniel Freeman, Master, 50 tons, 6
men, bound for Antigua
11 Barrels of Bread, 6000 Staves & Heading, 15000 feet of Pine
Boards, 5000 Hoops
- 13 Schooner *Fanny*, Purnell Johnson, Master, 45 tons, 5 men, bound
for Grenada
25 Barrels of Flour, 126 Barrels of Bread, 4500 Staves & Heading,
500 Hoops, 20 Hhds of Oats, 10 Hhds of Pease, 3 Hhds of Corn
Meal
- 13 Sloop *Kitty*, Joseph Mattingly, Master, 20 tons, 3 men, bound for
New Providence
19 Barrels of Flour, 27 Barrels of Bread, 2 Tons of Bar Iron, 1 Grind
Stone, 1 Box of Soap, 5 Cases contg Carpenters Tools, 4 Horses
& Provender
- 16 Ship *Cicely*, Martin Mollowny, Master, 120 tons, 12 men, bound
for Bristol
4000 Bushels of Wheat, 1000 Barrels of Flour
- 16 Ship *Richmond*, Thomas Hutchinson, Master, 70 tons, 9 men,
bound for Bristol
2000 Bushels of Wheat, 600 Barrels of Flour

- 16 Ship *Emperor of Germany*, John Richards, Master, 160 tons, 11 men, bound for Oporto
3000 Bushels of Corn, 5500 Bushels of Wheat
 - 16 Ship *Nancy & Sukey*, James Robinson, Master, 85 tons, 10 men, bound for Falmouth
7400 Bushels of Wheat, 2000 feet of Boat Boards
 - 16 Sloop *Polly*, John Martin, Master, 25 tons, 7 men, bound for St Kitts
10 Bbls Fish, 500 Barrels of Flour, 100 Barrels of Bread, 2 Tons of Bar Iron, a parcel of Blocks, 3 Sails & 20lb weight of Cordage
 - 21 Brig *Hope*, George Robinson, Master, 105 tons, 7 men, bound for Dublin
200 Hhds of Flaxseed, 100 Bbls Wheat Meal, 100 Bbls Rye Meal, 8 Casks of Bees Wax, 1300 Bushels of Wheat, 300 Barrels of Flour, 100 Barrels of Bread, 5000 Staves & Heading
 - 23 Schooner *Adventure*, Abraham Bartlet, Master, 68 tons, 6 men, bound for St Lucia
29 Half Bbls Flour, 396 Barrels of Flour, 4000 Staves & Heading
 - 24 *Snow *Neptune*, Edward Bingley, Master, 90 tons, 7 men, bound for Falmouth
7700 Bushels of Wheat, 5000 Staves & Heading
 - 28 Brig *Rachel*, James Tibbett, Master, 65 tons, 6 men, bound for Jamaica
200 Barrels of Herrings, 5 Kegs of Butter, 20 Barrels of Pork, 160 Barrels of Flour, 150 Barrels of Bread, 2½ Tons of Bar Iron, 32000 Staves & Heading, 43100 Shingles, 21 lbs of Starch, 5 Hhds of Pease
 - 28 Ship *Nancy*, James Burrow, Master, 130 tons, 15 men, bound for Milford
9000 Bushels of Wheat, 536 Barrels of Flour, 3200 Staves & Heading
 - 31 Ship *Dick*, Thomas Pearce, Master, 200 tons, 18 men, bound for Liverpool
10250 Bushels of Wheat, 10 Barrels of Flour, 3000 Staves & Heading, 120 Boat Boards
- Febry 8 Ship *Star & Garter*, Thomas Hemson, Master, 90 tons, 8 men, bound for Exeter
8 Bushels of Corn, 6300 Bushels of Wheat, 68 Barrels of Flour, 2952 Staves & Heading
- 8 Ship *Prosper*, James Baxter, Master, 250 tons, 15 men, bound for Milford
10475 Bushels of Wheat, 836 Barrels of Flour, 2919 Staves & Heading

- 11 *Ship *Elizabeth*, John Brown, Master, 100 tons, 7 men, bound for Falmouth
8100 Bushels of Wheat, 5300 Staves & Heading
- 13 Brig *Mary*, John Cathrick, Master, 120 tons, 10 men, bound for Ilfracomb
870 Bushels of Corn, 3920 Bushels of Wheat, 330 Barrels of Flour, 4475 Staves & Heading, 225 Oak Boat Boards, 2700 feet of Pine Plank
- 13 Brig *Sally Van*, Richard Jackson, Master, 55 tons, 6 men, bound for Jamaica
700 Barrels of Flour, 100 Barrels of Bread, 5000 Staves & Headings, 1000 Bushels of Pease
- 14 Sloop *Cumberland*, Joseph Titcomb, Master, 30 tons, 5 men, bound for Falmouth
450 Bushels of Corn, 230 Barrels of Flour, 50 Barrels of Bread, 2 Tons of Bar Iron
- 20 Sloop *Grampus*, John Bracket, Master, 50 tons, 6 men, bound for St. Croix
6 Bbls of Herrings, 10 Barrels of Pork, 110 Barrels of Flour, 30 Barrels of Bread, 3000 Staves & Heading, 20 Bbls of Indian Meal, 18000 Hoops
- 21 Brig *Molly*, James Connory, Master, 50 tons, 7 men, bound for Lisbon
350 Barrels of Flour, 6200 Staves & Heading
- 22 Ship *Totness*, Thomas Waring, Master, 130 tons, 11 men, bound for Liverpool
600 Bushels of Corn, 6100 Bushels of Wheat
- 25 Ship *Hibernia*, Thomas Morrison, Master, 100 tons, 14 men, bound for Londonderry
204 Hhds of Flaxseed, 4500 Bushels of Wheat, 300 Barrels of Flour, 5000 Staves and Heading, 2000 Pieces of Wheel Timber
- 25 Ship *Britannia*, John Watson, Master, 156 tons, 12 men, bound for Cork
6000 Bushels of Wheat, 500 Barrels of Flour, 4000 Staves & Heading, 2000 Feet of Boat Boards
- 24 Schooner *Nancy*, William Jones, Master, 60 tons, 5 men, bound for St Croix
4 Hhds & 30 Bbls of Indian Meal, 3 Bbls Rye Meal, 10 Bbls Beer, 85 Barrels of Flour, 25 Barrels & 52 Kegs of Bread, 5700 Staves & Heading, 10100 Hoops

- 27 Schooner *Polly*, Reuben Howes, Master, 80 tons, 7 men, bound for Figuera
3200 Bushels of Corn, 1518 Bushels of Wheat, 70 Barrels of Flour, 30 Barrels of Bread, 42 Bushels of Beans
- March 4 Brig *Nancy*, Patrick Cunningham, Master, 150 tons, 10 men, bound for Falmouth
8 Bushels of Corn, 9198 Bushels of Wheat, 4 Barrels of Flour, 4954 Staves & Heading, 42 Pine Planks
- 7 Brig *Escape*, Robert Callow, Master, 70 tons, 6 men, bound for Milford
1846 Bushels of Wheat, 415 Barrels of Flour, 4054 Feet of Pine Plank
- 7 Brig *Success*, John Wright, Master, 80 tons, 8 men, bound for Portsmouth
4000 Bushels of Wheat, 2000 Staves & Heading
- 7 *Brig *Rachel*, John Clay, Master, 120 tons, 10 men, bound for Falmouth
9000 Bushels of Wheat
- 10 Schooner *Sally*, Peter Fanuel Jones, Master, 45 tons, 6 men, bound for Cadiz
3604 Bushels of Wheat
- 11 Brig *Woodbridge*, William Knap, Master, 90 tons, 7 men, bound for Bilboa
100 Half Bbl's of Flour, 1200 Barrels of Flour
- 11 Schooner *Dolphin*, Joseph Proctor, Master, 45 tons, 6 men, bound for Cadiz
3000 Bushels of Wheat
- 13 Brig *Nabby*, Jonathan Mason, Master, 85 tons, 8 men, bound for Lisbon
14 Bbls NE Rum, 400 Gals Part of the Cargo imported, 3250 Bushels of Wheat, 300 Barrels of Flour, 150 Bushes of Beans
- 21 Schooner *Sally*, Thorndick Doland, Master, 40 tons, 5 men, bound for Cadiz
30 Half Bbls of Flour, 377 Barrels of Flour
- 23 Schooner *Hope*, George Southward, Master, 40 tons, 5 men, bound for Gibraltar
4 Hhds Rum, 520 Barrels of Flour, 10 Barrels of Bread
- 25 Ship *Isabella*, John Delatour, Master, 200 tons, 17 men, bound for Bristol
4273 Bushels of Wheat, 1679 Barrels of Flour, 11300 Staves & Heading

- 28 Brig *Sally*, William Moat, Master, 85 tons, 8 men, bound for Bristol
4879 Bushels of Wheat, 530 Barrels of Flour, 3500 Staves & Heading
- 30 Schooner *Polly*, Watson Crosby, Master, 42 tons, 5 men, bound for Jamaica
210 Bbls of Herrings, 50 Barrels of Pork, 370 Barrels of Flour, 100 Barrels of Bread, 7000 Staves & Heading, 2000 Hoops
- April 4 Ship *Champion*, Seth Paddock, Master, 170 tons, 9 men, bound for Cork
9884 Bushels of Wheat, 821 Barrels of Flour, 5360 Staves & Heading
- 5 Schooner *Friends Adventure*, John Fulford, Master, 40 tons, 5 men, bound for Barbadoes
24 Bbls of Fish, 1100 Bushels of Corn, 277 Barrels of Flour, 12 Barrels of Bread
- 8 Ship *Friendship*, George Gould, Master, 220 tons, 14 men, bound for Milford
2200 Bushels of Wheat, 420 Barrels of Flour, 3000 Staves & Heading
- 10 Brig *Chrysty*, Andrew Lee, Master, 110 tons, 12 men, bound for Cork
5500 Bushels of Wheat, 250 Barrels of Flour, 3000 Staves & Heading, 800 feet of Boat Boards
- 10 Ship *Dulany*, Thomas Jarrold, Master, 180 tons, 12 men, bound for Milford
7836 Bushels of Wheat, 808 Barrels of Flour, 20 Barrels of Bread, 1000 feet of Boat Boards
- 10 Schooner *Welcome*, Joshua Paine, Master, 70 tons, 6 men, bound for Madeira
3100 Bushels of Corn, 1000 Bushels of Wheat, 340 Barrels of Flour, 1000 Staves & Heading, 30 Bushs Beans
- 12 Brig *Henry & Joseph*, Henry Tickell, Master, 114 tons, 8 men, bound for Drogheda
2 Bbls of Bees Wax, 6314 Bushels of Wheat, 128 Barrels & 50 half Bbls of Flour, 50 Barrels of Bread, 3700 Staves & Heading, 3000 Feet of Boat Boards
- 13 Ship *Liberty*, Charles Thomson, Master, 110 tons, 9 men, bound for Falmouth
6610 Bushels of Wheat, 470 Barrels of Flour

- 13 Schooner *Peggy*, Elijah Luce, Master, 35 tons, 5 men, bound for Antigua
3 Bbls of Hams, 200 Bushels of Corn, 30 Barrels of Pork, 364 Barrels of Flour, 52 Barrels of Bread, 6 Tons of Bar Iron, 700 Staves & Heading, 1500 Hoops
- (2) 15 Snow *Betsey*, William Waud, Master, 100 tons, 9 men, bound for Lisbon
1300 Barrels of Flour
- 19 Schooner *Hannah*, Nathaniel Bosworth, Master, 50 tons, 6 men, bound for Barbadoes
53 Bbls of Fish, 2710 Bushels of Corn, 609 Barrels of Flour, 24 Barrels of Bread, 4000 Staves & Heading, 3000 Hoops, 12 Boxes Candles
- 22 Brig *Betsey*, Thomas Rolland, Master, 100 tons, 8 men, bound for Guernsey
4200 Bushels of Wheat, 212 Barrels of Flour, 30 Barrels of Bread
- 26 Brig *America*, Richard Stacey, Master, 75 tons, 6 men, bound for Cadiz
5 Hhds & 7 Tierces contg 720 Gals Rum, 3000 Bushels of Wheat, 400 Barrels of Flour, 700 Bushs of Beans
- May 1 Brig *Mary Carroll*, Peter Simmonds, Master, 100 tons, 7 men, bound for Dublin
4791 Bushels of Wheat, 214 Barrels of Flour, 20 Barrels of Bread
- 2 Brig *Wren*, Thomas Wood, Master, 50 tons, 7 men, bound for London
570 Barrels of Flour, 2 Tons of Pig Iron, 3000 Staves & Heading
- 2 Ship *Peggy*, William Barrons, Master, 90 tons, 11 men, bound for Cork
600 Bushels of Corn, 1600 Barrels of Flour, 15 Tons of Pig Iron, 2000 Staves & Heading
- 2 Schooner *Betsey*, Thomas Slater, Master, 40 tons, 5 men, bound for Dartmouth
693 Barrels of Flour, 13500 Staves & Heading
- 3 Ship *Industry*, Arthur Barnes, Master, 220 tons, 12 men, bound for Bristol
3098 Bushels of Corn, 9425 Bushels of Wheat, 1348 Barrels of Flour, 11040 Staves & Heading, 8000 Feet of Boat Boards
- 3 Schooner *Ninety Two*, Isaiah Stetson, Master, 60 tons, 7 men, bound for Bristol
1030 Barrels of Flour, 2500 Staves & Heading

- (2) 6 Brig *Sally Van*, Richard Jackson, Master, 50 tons, 5 men, bound for
St Croix
200 Barrels of Flour, 300 Barrels of Bread, 15000 Staves & Heading, 5000 Hoops
- 8 Brig *James*, John Smith, Master, 50 tons, 8 men, bound for
Falmouth
800 Barrels of Flour, 3000 Staves & Heading
- 8 Ship *Hercules*, John Norwood, Master, 140 tons, 13 men, bound
for Bristol
6000 Bushels of Wheat, 910 Barrels of Flour, 2000 Staves &
Heading
- 8 Ship *Baltimore Packet*, Alexander Kennedy, Master, 100 tons, 12
men, bound for Falmouth
6000 Bushels of Wheat, 600 Barrels of Flour, 3000 Staves &
Heading
- 8 Schooner *Industry* [James] Green, Master, 35 tons, 6 men, bound
for Dublin
128 Barrels of Flour, 20000 Staves & Heading, 20 Half Bbls Flour,
620 Oak Planks
- 8 Brig *Joseph*, Joseph Thompson, Master, 100 tons, 8 men, bound
for Plymouth in GB
40 Bushels of Corn, 7200 Bushels of Wheat, 100 Barrels of Flour
- 8 Ship *Sophia*, Joshua Lunn, Master, 130 tons, 12 men, bound for
London
310 Hhds of Tobacco, 30 Tons of Pig Iron, 11000 Staves & Heading
- 10 Snow *Hope*, John Hyde, Master, 100 tons, 8 men, bound for
London
7200 Bushels of Wheat, 16 Barrels of Flour
- 11 Snow *Elizabeth*, James Smith, Master, 150 tons, 7 men, bound for
Falmouth
200 Bushels of Corn, 4500 Bushels of Wheat, 480 Barrels of Flour,
5000 Staves & Heading
- 11 Brig *Dolphin*, James Scott, Master, 120 tons, 8 men, bound for
Bristol
13 Casks of Pearl Ash, 3600 Bushels of Corn, 2350 Bushels of
Wheat, 500 Barrels of Flour, 2500 Staves & Heading
- 11 Brig *Amy*, Thomas Salmon, Master, 120 tons, 6 men, bound for
Oporto
5500 Bushels of Wheat, 50 Barrels of Flour

- 12 Sloop *Two Sisters*, Joseph Oakman, Master, 65 tons, 4 men, bound for Antigua
167 Barrels of Flour, 393 Barrels of Bread, 8000 Staves & Heading, 200 Hoops
- 15 Brig *Autumn*, James Campbell, Master, 118 tons, 8 men, bound for Bristol
4000 Bushels of Wheat, 500 Barrels of Flour, 2000 Staves & Heading
- (2) 15 Schooner *Fanny*, Purnell Johnson, Master, 45 tons, 5 men, bound for Grenada
6 Casks of Starch, 787 Bushels of Corn, 100 Barrels of Flour, 176 Barrels & 116 Kegs of Bread, 22793 Staves & Heading, 1000 Hoops, 8 pieces of Timber & 8 Pine Plank
- 16 Brig *Olive Branch*, Oliver Frampton, Master, 105 tons, 9 men, bound for Falmouth
8215 Bushels of Wheat, 140 Barrels of Flour
- 16 Sloop *Speedwell*, Charles Allen, Master, 20 tons, 5 men, bound for Barbadoes
200 Bbls Herrings, 10 Barrels of Pork, 150 Barrels of Flour, 10 Barrels of Bread, 1000 Staves & Heading, 7000 feet Plank, 2000 Hoops, 60 Shaken Casks, 1 Horse
- 18 Brig *Maryland Planter*, Thomas Nicholson, Master, 120 tons, 9 men, bound for London
1529 Barrels of Flour, 5000 Staves & Heading
- 20 Brig *Union*, David Ross, Master, 85 tons, 7 men, bound for Bristol
4764 Bushels of Wheat, 263 Barrels of Flour
- 24 Schooner *Resolution*, Benjamin Jones, Master, 80 tons, 6 men, bound for Grenada
1353 Bushels of Corn, 88 Barrels of Flour, 50 Barrels of Bread
19680 Staves & Heading, 20 Bush. Pease, 1775 Hoops, 12270 feet Pine Plank
- 24 Snow *Jenny*, William McNeilly, Master, 60 tons, 7 men, bound for Cork
606 Barrels of Flour, 3000 Staves & Heading
- 27 Schooner *Two Brothers*, Thomas Ellis, Master, 15 tons, 4 men, bound for N Providence
100 Barrels of Flour
- (2) 27 Ship *Nancy*, James Burrow, Master, 130 tons, 14 men, bound for Milford
8365 Bushels of Wheat, 997 Barrels of Flour, 2550 Staves & Heading

- 27 Schooner *Elizabeth*, James Clarke, Master, 50 tons, 6 men, bound for Falmouth
627 Barrels of Flour, 60 Barrels of Bread, 3000 Staves & Heading, 2 Tons Lignum Vita
- 29 Schooner *Tryton*, James Forbes, Master, 30 tons, [blank] men, bound for St Croix
64 Bbbs Herrings, 6 Bags of Starch, 12 Barrels of Pork, 30 Barrels of Flour, 20 Barrels of Bread, 7000 Staves & Heading, 3400 Hoops, 5 pieces Scantling
- 29 Schooner *Dolphin*, Thomas Hall, Master, 35 tons, 4 men, bound for Barbadoes
262 Barrels of Flour, 50 Kegs of Bread, 1300 Staves & Heading
- June 1 Ship *Jenny & Polly*, Thomas Johnson, Master, 100 tons, 12 men, bound for Bristol
5868 Bushels of Wheat, 1443 Barrels of Flour, 5464 Staves & Heading
- 1 Ship *Sim*, Jno Thomas Boucher, Master, 130 tons, 11 men, bound for London
351 Hhds of Tobacco, 45 Tons of Pig Iron, 14600 Staves & Heading
- 1 Snow *Fanny & Jenny*, Richard Dickenson, Master, 120 tons, 6 men, bound for London
1295 Barrels of Flour, 6400 Staves & Heading
- 1 Brig *Sukey*, Samuel Clarke, Master, 50 tons, 6 men, bound for Bristol
4647 Bushels of Wheat, 300 Barrels of Flour
- 2 Ship *Brothers*, Jacob Walters, Master, 200 tons, 15 men, bound for Glasgow
540 Hhds of Tobacco, 16900 Staves & Heading, 30 Doz Hhds Hoops
- 5 Brig *Dutchess of Leinster*, Alexander Cathrew, Master, 100 tons, 6 men, bound for Dublin
107½ Bushels of Corn, 2960 Bushels of Wheat, 20 Barrels of Flour, 50 Barrels of Bread, 8600 Staves & Heading
- 6 Schooner *Mary*, Zedekiah Walley, Master, 60 tons, 5 men, bound for Bristol
494 Barrels of Flour, 6500 Staves & Heading
- 6 Brig *Baltimore*, Jonathan Clarke, Master, 30 tons, 5 men, bound for Teneriffe
6 Bbbs of Bees Wax, 30 Barrels of Pork, 400 Barrels of Flour, 140 Staves & Heading

- 8 Sloop *Friendship*, John Middleton, Master, 20 tons, 3 men, bound for Barbadoes
1174 Bushels of Corn, 180 Barrels of Flour
- 8 Brig *Elizabeth & Mary*, William Lightbourn, Master, 45 tons, 5 men, bound for Barbadoes
113 Barrels of Flour, 94 Barrels of Bread, 3 m Bricks
- 10 Ship *Neptune*, Robert Collings, Master, 190 tons, 14 men, bound for Falmouth
9860 Bushels of Wheat, 1100 Barrels of Flour, 4500 Staves & Heading, 2 Tons of Bees Wax
- 12 Schooner *Peggy*, William Gosnold, Master, 50 tons, 6 men, bound for Antigua
260 Barrels of Herrings, 440 Barrels of Flour, 3300 Staves & Heading
- 13 Ship *Grace*, James Lawson, Master, 200 tons, 16 men, bound for London
190 Hhds of Tobacco, 2065 Barrels of Flour, 13000 Staves & Heading
- 14 Ship *Baltimore*, Charles Stewart, Master, 195 tons, 14 men, bound for London
481 Hhds of Tobacco, 45 Tons of Pig Iron, 16500 Staves & Heading
- 16 Ship *Nancy*, James Buchanan, Master, 160 tons, 12 men, bound for London
431 Hhds of Tobacco, 25 Tons of Pig Iron, 1600 Staves & Heading
- 19 Sloop *Kitty*, John Thompson, Master, 20 tons, 5 men, bound for N. Providence
15 Cases Furniture, 127½ Bushels of Corn, 52 Barrels of Flour, 3 Tons Bar Iron, 2 Bundles Leather, 2820 Feet of Pine Plank
- 19 Brig *Rachel*, James Tibbet, Master, 65 tons, 6 men, bound for London
440 Barrels Pitch, 778 Barrels of Flour, 5730 Staves & Heading, 1 Bble containing 2 Potts Cranberries & two Hams
- 24 Sloop *Swan*, William Brown, Master, 20 tons, 3 men, bound for Falmouth
1500 Bushels of Corn
- 24 Ship *Union*, Andrew Bryson, Master, 200 tons, 12 men, bound for London
8000 Bushels of Wheat, 1521 Barrels of Flour, 4900 Staves & Heading

- 26 Ship *Catharine*, James McNeil, Master, 160 tons, 13 men, bound for Cork
9000 Bushels of Wheat, 700 Barrels of Flour, 8000 Staves & Heading
- 26 Brig *John*, John Mauger, Master, 145 tons, 10 men, bound for Liverpool
6751 Bushels of Wheat, 101 Barrels of Flour, 500 Staves & Heading
- 26 Brig *Friendship*, Thomas Nowel, Master, 90 tons, 7 men, bound for Liverpool
6219 Bushels of Wheat, 10 Barrels of Flour, 38 Barrels of Bread
- 29 Ship *Active*, John Bruce, Master, 200 tons, 12 men, bound for London
11000 Bushels of Wheat, 1201 Barrels of Flour, 15000 Staves & Heading
- (2) 29 Schooner *Polly*, Watson Crosby, Master, 42 tons, 5 men, bound for Jamaica
3000 Bushels of Corn, 1 Ton of Bar Iron, 200 Bush. Rye, 25 Bushels Beans
- July 3 Brig *Swan*, Robert Mein, Master, 65 tons, 7 men, bound for Falmouth
2350 Bushels of Wheat, 660 Barrels of Flour, 4628 Staves & Heading
- 12 Schooner *Swallow*, John Lovett, Master, 30 tons, 5 men, bound for Antigua
300 Bushels of Corn, 353 Barrels of Flour, 3000 Hoops, 185 Shaken Casks
- 12 Schooner *Elizabeth*, Nathaniel Cook, Master, 35 tons, 5 men, bound for Antigua
28 Bbls Herrings, 4 Bbls Mackrell, 2085 Bushels of Corn, 6 Barrels of Flour, 70 Barrels 50 Kegs of Bread, 3 Tons of Bar Iron
- 13 Brig *Molly*, William White, Master, 95 tons, 7 men, bound for Bristol
2300 Bushels of Corn, 1354 Bushels of Wheat, 295 Barrels of Flour, 3000 Staves & Heading
- 13 Schooner *Nancy*, Jonathan Thacher, Master, 20 tons, 3 men, bound for N. Providence
56 Barrels of Flour
- 14 Brig *Jane*, Peter Templeton, Master, 80 tons, 8 men, bound for Cork
3832 Bushels of Corn, 1802½ Bushels of Wheat, 310 Barrels of Flour, 200 Barrels of Bread

- 15 Ship *Clibborn*, William Thomas, Master, 200 tons, 14 men, bound for Milford
10500 Bushels of Wheat, 1025 Barrels of Flour
- (2) Brig *Escape*, Robert Callow, Master, 70 tons, 6 men, bound for Barcelona
2500 Bushels of Corn, 200 Barrels of Flour
- 17 Snow *Catherine*, Nicholas Fortune, Master, 80 tons, 9 men, bound for Bristol
6000 Bushels of Wheat, 150 Barrels of Flour, 8000 Staves & Heading
- 17 Ship *John*, Charles Poaug, Master, 140 tons, 11 men, bound for Cork
5000 Bushels of Wheat, 400 Barrels of Flour, 50 Barrels of Bread, 25000 Staves & Heading
- 19 Ship *Charles* Charles Reily, Master, 90 tons, 10 men, bound for Liverpool
7800 Bushels of Wheat, 4 Barrels of Flour, 1271 Staves & Heading, 8131 Feet of Boat Boards
- 19 Brig *Phila*, Richard Curtis, Master, 100 tons, 7 men, bound for Liverpool
4531 Bushels of Wheat, 4776 Staves & Heading, 723 feet of Boat Boards

*These vessels cleared through the deputy naval agent at the port of Chester, directly across Chesapeake Bay from Annapolis.

(2) Indicates a second clearance within the period Dec. 1, 1774—July 19, 1775.

A List of Ships and Vessels which have entered INWARDS in the Port of Annapolis in Maryland

[Extract]

[Omitted are: when and where built, where last registered, by whom owned, and vessels engaged purely coast-wise]

1774

- | | | |
|-------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Decbr | 2 | Brig <i>Peggy</i> , Abraham Walton, Master, 50 tons, 9 men, from Tortola
15 Hhds Muscavado Sugar, 12800 Pounds of bro: Sugar |
| | 2 | Brig <i>Nabby</i> , Danl Sanders, Master, 85 tons, 7 men, from St Croix
10 Tierces & 25 Bbbs of Bro: Sugar |
| | 3 | Ship <i>William</i> , Jas Thomas, Master, 200 tons, 15 men, from Bristol
European Goods p. 20 Cockets, 105 Convicts & 4 Servants |
| | 6 | Ship <i>Charles</i> , Chas Reilly, Master, 90 tons, 11 men, from Liverpool
1 Bale contg, 16 Pieces measg 985 yds of Linen, European Goods
p 2 Cockets, 6400 Bushels of Salt |

- 8 Schooner *Polly*, Reuben Howes, Master, 80 tons, 6 men, from Madeira
30 Pipes Madeira Wine, 25 Bbls of Herrings
- 9 Ship *Elizabeth*, Wm Campbell, Master, 110 tons, 10 men, from Londonderry
14 Servants
- 14 Ship *John*, Chas Poaug, Master, 140 tons, 10 men, from Cork
1 Bale Irish Linen, 14 ps measg 350 Yard, 10 Servants
- 15 Ship *Jim*, Elias Hocker, Master, 130 tons, 12 men, from London
European Goods p 25 Cockets, 21 Servants
- 17 Ship *Cicely*, Martin Mollowny, Master, 120 tons, 12 men, from Malaga
Ballast
- 17 Sloop *Betsey*, Jas Avery, Master, 35 tons, 6 men, from Hispaniola
60 Tierces & 19 Hhds for Melasses
- 17 Schooner *Fanny*, Purnell Johnson, Master, 45 tons, 5 men, from Antigua
3 Hhds bro. Sugar, 53 Hhds Rum, 4770 Gallons of Rum, 3000 Pounds of bro: Sugar
- 19 Ship *Dick*, Thos Pearce, Master, 200 tons, 17 men, from Liverpool
9680 Bushels of Salt, 5000 Bricks, 14 ⁷/₁₂ Chaldrons of Coal
- 19 Ship *Sophia*, Jas Carmichael, Master, 130 tons, 11 men, from London
Ballast
- 20 Schooner *Industry*, Wm Woolsey, Master, 35 tons, 6 men, from Dublin
3 Boxes contg 120 pieces of Irish Linen, 55 Servants
- 22 Brig *Ulysses*, Robt Forsyth, Master, 80 tons, 10 men, from Bilboa
Ballast
- 22 Snow *Potowmack*, Archibald Graham, Master, 140 tons, 11 men, from Dublin
12 Boxes contg 800 Pieces Irish Linen 19439 Yards
- 29 Ship *Emperor of Germany*, John Richards, Master, 160 tons, 9 men, from Bristol
European Goods pr 4 Cockets, 4786 Bushels of Salt
- 29 Ship *Richmond*, Thomas Hutchinson, Master, 70 tons, 8 men, from Liverpool
European Goods pr 2 Cockets, 5520 Bushels of Salt
- 30 Schooner *Peggy*, John Digges, Master, 35 tons, 6 men, from Montserrat
7 Hhds 2 Tierces & 3 Bbls Sugar, 11 Hhds & 1 Bbl Rum, 1030 Gallons of Rum, 10500 Pounds of br. Sugar

- 30 Schooner *Adventure*, Abraham Bartlett, Master, 60 tons, 6 men,
from Hispaniola
10 Hhds 20 Tierces & 11 Barrels of foreign Melasses

1775

- Janry 2 Brig *Mary*, Jno Cathrick, Master, 120 tons, 9 men, from Barba-
does & Antigua
6 Tierces & 13 Bbls bro. Suger 121 Hhds Rum, 10890 Gallons of
Rum, 5200 Pounds of br. Sugar
- 3 Sloop *Polly*, John Martin, Master, 25 tons, 7 men, from St. Kitts
44 Hhds Rum, 4400 Gallons of Rum
- 4 Brig *Hope*, George Robinson, Master, 105 tons, 7 men, from
Dublin
Ballast
- 4 Brig *Molly*, Jas Connory, Master, 50 tons, 7 men, from Hull
European Goods p 2 Cockets
- 5 Ship *Nancy*, Jas Burrow, Master, 130 tons, 14 men, from Bristol
European Goods p 3 Cockets, 7546 Bushels of Salt, 2 Indentured
Servants
- 5 Ship *Hibernia*, Thos Morrison, Master, 100 tons, 12 men, from Cork
Ballast
- 7 Ship *Star & Garter*, Thomas Hemson, Master, 90 tons, 9 men,
from Exeter
European Goods p 1 Cocket, Convicts
- 10 Snow *Baltimore*, John Bruce, Master, 70 tons, 8 men, from Antigua
13 Hhds of Rum, 6 Tierces & 14 Bbls of Sugar
- 11 Ship *Prosper*, James Baxter, Master, 250 tons, 16 men, from
Bristol
6597 Bushels of Salt
- 13 Brig *Nancy*, Patrick Cunningham, Master, 150 tons, 10 men, from
Hull
Ballast
- 31 Brig *Sally Van*, Richard Jackson, Master, 55 tons, 6 men, from
Jamaica
11 Puncheons & 131 Casks of Rum, 7 Hhds of Sugar, 1442 Gallons
of Melasses
- 31 Ship *Britannia*, John Watson, Master, 156 tons, 12 men, from
Greenock
European Goods p 2 Cockets

- Febry 2 Ship *Totness*, John Hudson, Master, 130 tons, 12 men, from
 Liverpool
 European Goods p 1 Cocket, 4476 Bushels of Salt, 9 Convicts & 1
 Servant
- 3 Brig *Fortune*, Thomas Moore, Master, 75 tons, 7 men, from
 Jamaica
 40 Hhds Melasses, 5 Bbls Coffee, 5 Bags of Cotton
- 4 Sloop *Grampus*, John Bracket, Master, 50 tons, 6 men, from St
 Croix
 Ballast
- 4 Brig *Woodbridge*, William Knap, Master, 90 tons, 7 men, from
 Guadaloupe, via Salem
 107 Hhds 77 Tierces & 23 Bbls foreign Melasses, 2 Bbls foreign bro
 Sugar, 20 foreign Hides
- 20 Schooner *Nancy*, William Jones, Master, 60 tons, 5 men, from
 St Croix
 Ballast
- 20 Brig *Success*, John Wright, Master, 80 tons, 7 men, from London
 Ballast
- 24 Brig *Escape*, Robert Callow, Master, 70 tons, 6 men, from Milford
 Ballast
- March 6 Ship *Isabella*, John Delatour, Master, 200 tons, 17 men, from
 Antigua
 Ballast
- 7 Brig *Baltimore*, Jonathan Clarke, Master, 30 tons, 5 men, from
 Barbadoes
 12 Hhds & 1 Bbl Rum, 1125 Gallons of Rum
- 7 Schooner *Betsey*, Isaac Snow, Master, 38 tons, 4 men, from St
 Croix
 Ballast
- 7 Schooner *Polly*, Watson Crosby, Master, 42 tons, 5 men, from
 Grenadoes
 4 Hhds Sugar, 4000 Pounds of bro Sugar
- 7 Ship *Sally*, William Moat, Master, 85 tons, 8 men, from Bristol
 4000 Bushels of Salt, 24 Servants
- 8 Brig *Henry & Joseph*, Henry Tickell, Master, 114 tons, 10 men,
 from Liverpool
 1 Puncheon of Jamaica Rum, 110 Gallons of Rum, 5133 Bushels
 of Salt

- 11 Schooner *Welcome*, Samuel Paine, Master, 70 tons, 6 men, from
Madeira
Ballast
- 11 Schr *Friends Adventure*, John Fulford, Master, 40 tons, 5 men,
from Barbadoes
Ballast
- 17 Ship *Dulany*, Thomas Jarrold, Master, 180 tons, 12 men, from
Lisbon
Ballast
- 18 *Brig *Harriot*, Tho Johnson, Master, 60 tons, 7 men, from Isle of
May
2000 Bushels of Salt
- 20 Ship *Christy*, Andrew Lee, Master, 110 tons, 11 men, from Glasgow
Ballast
- 20 Brig *Mary Carroll*, Peter Simmonds, Master, 100 tons, 7 men, from
Lisbon
Ballast
- 27 Ship *Liberty*, Charles Thomson, Master, 110 tons, 9 men, from
Gibraltar
Ballast
- April 4 Brig *Betsey*, Thomas Rolland, Master, 100 tons, 8 men from
Guernsey
Ballast
- 8 Ship *Baltimore*, James Hanrick, Master, 195 tons, 14 men, from
London
14 Servants
- 8 Snow *Betsey*, William Waud, Master, 100 tons, 9 men, from Isle
of May
1000 Bushels of Salt
- 12 Brig *Dolphin*, James Scott, Master, 120 tons, 9 men, from Plymouth
Ballast
- 15 Brig *Wren*, Thomas Wood, Master, 50 tons, 6 men, from London
Ballast, 32 Servants
- 17 Schooner *Resolution*, Benjamin Jones, Master, 80 tons, 6 men, from
Jamaica
Ballast
- 17 Schooner *Three Brothers*, David Smith, Master, 60 tons, 5 men,
from Guadaloupe
78 Casks of foreign Melasses, 5400 Gallons of Melasses

*This vessel entered with the deputy naval officer at Chester, across the Chesapeake from Annapolis.

- 17 Sloop *Speedwell*, Charles Allen, Master, 20 tons, 5 men, from St Croix
Ballast
- 18 Schooner *Industry*, William Woolsey, Master, 35 tons, 5 men, from Antigua
20 Hhds & 1 Tierce of Rum, 2 Tierces & 3 Bbls Sugar, 1850 Gallons of Rum, 2000 Pounds of bro Sugar
- 18 Ship *Peggy*, William Barrons, Master, 90 tons, 10 men, from Lisbon
Ballast
- 18 Schooner *Fanny*, Purnel Johnson, Master, 45 tons, 5 men, from St Croix
Ballast
- 20 Snow *Hope*, John Hyde, Master, 100 tons, 9 men, from Poole
Ballast
- 20 Brig *James*, John Smith, Master, 50 tons, 7 men, from Cork
Ballast, 67 Servants
- 25 Brig *Olive Branch*, Oliver Frampton, Master, 105 tons, 8 men, from Bristol
Ballast, 17 Servants
- 25 Schooner *Tryton*, James Forbes, Master, 30 tons, 5 men, from St Croix
Ballast
- 27 Ship *Hercules*, John Norwood, Master, 140 tons, 13 men, from Dublin
119 Servants
- 28 Brig *Joseph*, Joseph Thompson, Master, 100 tons, 7 men, from Poole
Ballast
- 29 Brig *Amy*, Thomas Salmon, Master, 120 tons, 7 men, from Amsterdam
Ballast
- 29 Brig *Maryland Planter*, Thomas Nicholson, Master, 120 tons, 9 men, from London
91 Servants
- 29 Brig *Jane*, Peter Templeton, Master, 80 tons, 10 men, from London
82 Servants
- 29 Snow *Elizabeth*, James Smith, Master, 150 tons, 9 men, from London
Ballast
- May 1 Sloop *Two Sisters*, Joseph Oakman, Master, 65 tons, 5 men, from Salem
5 hhds Rum, 500 Gallons of Rum

- 1 Schooner *Sally & Polly*, Nathaniel Freeman, Master, 50 tons, 5 men,
from Jamaica
27 Puncheons of Rum, 2835 Gallons of Rum, 50 Hides
- 1 Brig *Sally Van*, Richard Jackson, Master, 55 tons, 6 men, from
Jamaica
6 Hhds Sugar, 58 Puncheons & 111 Casks Rum, 10820 Gallons
of Rum, 8400 Pounds of br Sugar, 142 Hides
- 5 Ship *Nancy*, James Buchanan, Master, 160 tons, 13 men, from
London
Ballast
- 9 Brig *Nancy*, Gabriel Sund, Master, 100 tons, 14 men, from London
Ballast
- 10 Snow *Fanny & Jenny*, Richard Dickinson, Master, 120 tons, 7 men,
from London
50 Servants
- 10 Ship *Nancy*, James Burrow, Master, 130 tons, 13 men, from Milford
Ballast
- 10 Snow *Jenny*, William McNeilly, Master, 60 tons, 7 men, from
Cork
32 Servants
- 13 Ship *Jenny & Polly*, Daniel Lawrence, Master, 100 tons, 11 men,
from Bristol
Ballast
- 13 Brig *Dutchess of Leinster*, Alexandr Chathrew, Master, 100 tons, 6
men, from Dublin
49 Servants
- 13 Ship *Union*, Robert Stonehouse, Master, 140 tons, 13 men, from
London
Ballast
- 13 Ship *Potuxent*, David Lewis, Master, 200 tons, 14 men, from
London
Ballast, 3 Servants
- 13 Schooner *Mary*, Zedechiah Walley, Master, 60 tons, 6 men, from
Cork
20 Servants
- 15 Sloop *Friendship*, John Middleton, Master, 20 tons, 4 men, from
Bermuda
Ballast
- 16 Schooner *Two Brothers*, Thomas Ellis, Master, 15 tons, 4 men, from
N Providence
2 Hhds Rum, 3 Bbbs Lime Juice, 200 Gallons of Rum, 13wt of
Cottons, 2 Tuns Lignum Vitae, 22000 Limes, 100 Doz Pine
apples, 500 Oranges

- 17 Ship *Neptune*, Robert Collings, Master, 190 tons, 14 men, from London
Ballast
- 19 Brig *Sukey*, Samuel Clark, Master, 50 tons, 7 men, from Poole
Ballast
- 26 Brig *Elizabeth & Mary*, William Lightbourn, Master, 45 tons, 6 men, from Bbdoes
35 Hhds, 1 Tierce Rum, 24 Bbls Musco Sugar, 3220 Gallons of Rum, 4800 Pounds of br Sugar
- 26 Brig *Rachel*, James Tibbet, Master, 65 tons, 6 men, from Jamacia
24 Puncheons & 6 Bbls Rum, 2600 Gallons of Rum
- 27 Sloop *Kitty*, John Thompson, Master, 20 tons, 5 men, from New Providence
9 Puncheons of Rum, 1 Hhd Sugar, 810 Gallons of Rum, 1400 pounds of br Sugar, 500 lbs Cotton, 10 Bbls Limes, 2 Ct Turtle, 100 Doz Pineapples, 6 Tuns Lignum Vitae
- June 5 Ship *Catherine*, James McNeil, Master, 160 tons, 13 men, from Dublin
Ballast, 60 Servants
- 6 Schooner *Polly*, Watson Crosby, Master, 42 tons, 4 men, from Jamacia
35 Puncheons of Rum, 3500 Gallons of Rum, 584 Hides
- 7 Brig *Friendship*, Thomas Nowel, Master, 90 tons, 6 men, from St Martins
Ballast
- 7 Ship *Brothers*, Matthew Craymer, Master, 250 tons, 14 men, from London
Ballast
- 8 Brig *John*, John Mauger, Master, 145 tons, 10 men, from Liverpool
[blank]
- 9 Ship *Union*, Andrew Pryse, Master, 200 tons, 12 men, from London
[blank]
- 12 Brig *Molly*, James Campbell, Master, 95 tons, 6 men, from Bbdoes
174 Hhds & 14 Bbls Rum, 30 Bbls Sugar, 3 Bags contg 120 lb Cotton, 16120 Gallons of Rum, 6750 Pounds of bro Sugar, 20 Bbls Limes, 4 Boxes contg 100lbs Sweet Meats
- 12 Ship *Friendship*, William Frost, Master, 200 tons, 13 men, from London
Ballast

- 17 Ship *Annapolis*, William Marshal, Master, 380 tons, 6 guns, 20 men, from London .
Ballast
- 23 Ship *Charles*, Charles Reiley, Master, 90 tons, 11 men, from Liverpool
Ballast
- 23 Ship *Elizabeth*, Thomas Spencer, Master, 250 tons, 20 men, from Bristol
116 Convicts
- 23 Schooner *Nancy*, Jonathan Thacher, Master, 20 tons, 3 men, from New Providence
5 Bbls Limes, 200 Doz Pine Apples, 5 Setts of Bed Steads, 1 Tun of Lignum Vitae
- 26 Schooner *Peggy*, Elijah Luce, Master, 35 tons, 5 men, from Antigua
42 Hhds Rum, 2 Hhds & 9 Bbls Sugar, 3780 Gallons of Rum, 3800 Pounds of bro Sugar
- 27 Schooner *Swallow*, John Lovett, Master, 30 tons, 5 men, from St Eustatia
Ballast
- 27 Brig *Phila*, Richard Curtis, Master, 100 tons, 7 men, from Waterford
Ballast 62 Servants & Passengers
- 27 Ship *Kitty*, Joseph Mallett, Master, 150 tons, 10 men, from Hamburgh
Ballast
- 27 Ship *Clibborn*, William Thomas, Master, 200 tons, 18 men, from Hamburgh
Ballast
- 28 Sloop *Polly*, Philemon Patterson, Master, 25 tons, 6 men, from Bermuda
7 Hhds B P Sugar, 48 Hhds P B Rum, 4800 Gallons of Rum, 9800 Pounds of bro Sugar
- 28 Ship *John*, Charles Poaug, Master, 140 tons, 10 men, from Belfast
Ballast
- 28 Ship *Thornton*, Finlay Gray, Master, 175 tons, 13 men, from London
Ballast & 168 Convicts
- July 1 Snow *Catherine*, Nicholas Fortune, Master, 80 tons, 10 men, from Youghall
22 Servants

- 4 Ship *Camden*, Joseph Richardson, Master, 240 tons, 14 men, from
London
Ballast
- 4 Ship *Aston Hall*, John Parker, Master, 200 tons, 14 men, from
London
98 Convicts
- 7 Brig *Escape*, Robert Callow, Master, 70 tons, 7 men, from Milford
Ballast
- 7 Ship *Isabella*, James Thomas, Master, 200 tons, 15 men, from
Bristol
Ballast, 25 Convicts & 2 Servants
- 10 Schooner *Hannah*, Nathaniel Bosworth, Master, 50 tons, 6 men,
from St Vincents & Antigua
35 Hhds Rum, 43 Hhds, Rum, 3 Tierces & 4 Bbbs Sugar, 3150
Gallons of Rum, 3870 Gallons of Rum, 2300 Pounds of bro
Sugar
- 10 Ship *Star & Garter*, Thomas Hemson, Master, 90 tons, 9 men,
from Exeter
Ballast, Convicts
- 11 Schr *Friends Adventure*, John Fulford, Master, 40 tons, 5 men,
from Barbadoes
41 Hhds Rum, 6 Hhds Sugar, 4100 Gallons of Rum, 6000 Pounds
bro Sugar
- 12 Brig *Friendship*, John Martin, Master, 40 tons, 6 men, from
Bermuda
Ballast
- 14 Snow *Potowmack*, Edward Weeks, Master, 140 tons, [blank] men,
from Dublin & Madeira
28 Pipes 5 Hhds & 7 Qtr Casks of Wine shipt for Ireland,
32 Servants
- 17 Ship *Success*, John Wright, Master, 80 tons, 6 men, from
Portsmouth
Ballast
- 18 Sloop *Lively*, Timothy Wadham, Master, 25 tons, 3 men, from
New Providence
47 Bbbs Limes, 5½ Tons Lignum Vitae, 40 Setts Mahogany Bed
Steads, 10 Ct Weight of Box Wood, 50 Feet of 3½ Inch Ma-
hogany Planks, 200 Doz Pine Apples
- 19 Brig *Potowmack*, James Mitchel, Master, 200 tons, 12 men, from
London
Ballast

- 22 Brig *Eunice*, Charles Anderson, Master, 130 tons, 9 men, from Surinam
40 Hhds & 20 Tierces Melasses
- 22 Sloop *Two Sisters*, Joseph Oakman, Master, 65 tons, 4 men, from Antigua
1 Hhd & 16 Bbls Sugar, 32 Hhds Rum, 2880 Gallons of Rum, 4200 Pounds of br Sugar
- 24 Sloop *William*, Joseph Hutchins, Master, 25 tons, 4 men, from New Providence
20 Bbls Limes, 600 lb Cotton, 250 Bushels of Salt, 8 Setts Bedsteads, 2 Tuns Braziletto, 300 Doz Pine Apples, 3 Ct. Turtle, 5lb of Cortex Eluotheria
- 29 Schooner *Fanny*, Purnell Johnson, Master, 46 tons, 4 men, from Nevis
64 Hhds Rum & 31 Bbls Limes, 5760 Gallons of Rum
- August 7 Ship *Lord Camden*, James Rogers, Master, 200 tons, 12 men, from Cork
140 Servants & Passengers
- 7 Ship *Duke of Leinster*, Patrick North, Master, 120 tons, 12 men, from Dublin
60 Servants
- 11 Ship *Dulany*, Thomas Jarrold, Master, 180 tons, 11 men, from Ponte Vedra
Ballast
- 11 Schooner *Tryton*, James Forbes, Master, 30 tons, 4 men, from Turks Island
1000 Bushels of Salt
- 15 Brig *Conclusion*, Joseph Newman, Master, 90 tons, 7 men, from Cadiz
Ballast
- 16 Schooner *Hannah*, Theophilus Russel, Master, 40 tons, 5 men, from Bbdoes
14 Hhds & 4 Bbls Rum, 5 Bbls Sugars, 1380 Gallons of Rum, 1000 Pounds of bro Sugar
- 16 Ship *Rose*, Joseph Curry, Master, 110 tons, 10 men, from Londonderry
30 Passengers
- 21 Schooner *Acteon*, John Sweeting, Master, 20 tons, 4 men, from N Providence
8 ct Cotton Wool, 40 Bbls & Boxes of Limes, 1 Bbl Lime Juice, 1 ct orange Peel, 5 Tuns Lignum Vitae, 500 Oranges, 5000 Limes in Bulk, 30 Doz Pines [Apples]

- 26 Snow *Mary*, John Carmody, Master, 150 tons, 9 men, from
Limerick
Ballast 13 Servants
- 31 Brig *Mary*, Robert Wallace, Master, 120 tons, 10 men, from
Bristol
27 Servants
- Sept 4 Snow *Baltimore*, James Clark, Master, 70 tons, 7 men, from London
40 Servants
- 4 Sloop *John*, William Chase, Master, 25 tons, 3 men, from
Hispaniola
Ballast
- 9 Schooner *Betsey*, Thos Munro, Master, 39 tons, 6 men, from
Grenadoes
2 Hhds Sugar, 2 Hhds Cocoa 800 lb, 195 Hhds Rum, 17550 Gal-
lons of Rum, 2000 Pounds of bro Sugar
- 11 Schooner *Peggy*, William Gosnold, Master, 50 tons, 6 men, from
Antigua
Ballast
- 20 Schooner *Dolphin*, Thomas Thett, Master, 35 tons, 5 men, from
Grenadoes
43 Hhds & 2 Bbls of Rum, 3957 Gallons of Rum, 15 Bbls Limes,
6 Bbls Oranges
- 22 Sloop *Grampus*, John Brackett, Master, 50 tons, 6 men, from
Jamaica
20 Puncheons of Rum
- 27 Schooner *Resolution*, Benja Jones, Master, 80 tons, 6 men, from
Grenadoes
67 Hhds & 1 Bbl Rum, 6060 Gallons of Rum
- 28 Schooner *Ninety Two*, Isaiah Stenson, Master, 60 tons, 5 men,
from Bristol
6 Servants
- 27 Brig *Fortune*, Thomas Moore, Master, 75 tons, 7 men, from London
76 Servants
- 28 Brig *Beith*, John Harper, Master, 50 tons, 7 men, from St Eustatia
Ballast

- 29 Schooner *Belvidera*, John Waters, Master, 40 tons, 4 men, from Anguilla
4 Hhds Rum, 4 Bbls Sugar, 400 lb Cotton Wool
- Octor 1 Brig *Juliana*, Walter Burke, Master, 60 tons, 6 men, from Galway
32 Servants
- 6 Sloop *Polly*, Philemon Patterson, Master, 25 tons, 6 men, from St Kitts
60 Hhds Rum, 6000 Gallons of Rum, 20 Bbls Limes

1. MdHS. Microfilm of Port of Entry Books is held by the Maryland Archives (Hall of Records).

APPENDIX B

James River Naval Office, Manifest Book 1774–1775 ¹

[Omitted are the long columns of figures or letters used to identify each barrel, hogshead, bale, cask or bundle in each cargo.]

1774

- Decr 10 Ship *Kattie*, James Clarke, Master, bound for London
 Sworn to before Lewis Burwell, Naval Officer
 Four hundred and thirty four Hogsheads Tobacco & nine thousand five hundred Staves
- Decr 22 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Brig[antine] *Patience*
 William Moore, Mr for London
 Four hundred & one Hogsheads of Tobacco & five thousand five hundred Staves
- Decr 30 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Bowman*
 Humpy Taylor Mr for Glasgow
 Four hundred and sixty six Hogsheads Tobacco, one Hogshead Rum and nine thousand nine hundred Staves
 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Virginian*
 Jno Aselby Master for Bristol
 [No total or date given]

1775

- Jany 10 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Jean*
 John Ritchie Master for Glasgow
 Three hundred and seventy seven Hogsheads Tobacco, two hundred and sixty nine Barrels of Pork and nine thousand Staves
- January 30 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Molly*
 John Lawmont Mr for Glasgow
 Two hundred and two Hogsheads Tobacco one Hogshead of Rum and twelve thousand Staves
- Jany 31 A Manifest of the Lading on bd the Brig *Molly*
 Saml Mitchinson Mr for W[hi]t[e] haven
 Three hundred and seventy two Hogshds Tobacco one Cask of Pearl Ash and nine thousand Staves

- February 3 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Richmond*
 James Patterson Mr for Glasgow
 Five hundred and fifty four Hogsheds Tobacco, fifteen thousand six hundred Staves, and five hundred Hoops
- Feby 8 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Snow *John & Bella*
 Andw Green Mr for London
 Three hundred and seventy four Hogshds Tobacco, eight thousand Staves & ten thousand Shingles
- February 14 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Elizabeth*
 James Barron Master for London
 Four hundred and ninety four Hogshds Tobacco, one Hogshd Snakeroot, one Box Deer Skins, One Box Indico, & ten thousand Staves
- Feby 16 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Neptune*
 Hugh Morris Mr for Glasgow
 Four hundred and seventy six Hogshds Tobacco, thirteen thousand Staves & thirty dozen of Hoops
- February 24 A manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Donald*
 Thos Ramsay Mr for Glasgow
 Five hundred & thirty eight Hogsheds of Tobacco, one Hogshd Skins & seventeen thousand Staves
- Feby 27 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Thomas*
 John Robertson Mr for Glasgow
 Four hundred and twenty nine Hogsheds Tobacco, 11600 Staves, 400 Hoops & 12 old Hogsheds
- March 6 A Manifest of the Lading on board the [Brigantine] *Venus*
 Isaac Sharp Master, bound for London
 Two hundred and eighty seven Hogsheds of Tobo & 5750 Staves
- March 18 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Brilliant*
 Robert Bennet Mr for Glasgow
 Five hundred and thirteen Hogsheds Tobacco three Hogsheds of Rum, seventeen thousand Staves & five hundred hoops.
- March 18 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Snow *Homer*,
 John Dunnet Master for Glasgow
 Three hundred and three Hogsheds Tobacco, ten thousand four hundd Staves & one hundred and sixty four Hoops
- March 22 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Brig *Pomona*
 Richard Sherwin Master bound for Whitehaven Two hundred and thirty two Hogsheds Tobacco, and six thousand Staves
- March 30 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Brig *Tryall*
 Henry Higginson Mr for Falmouth
 One hundred and thirty five Hogsheds Tobacco, & one hundred and thirty six Barrls Flour

- April 4 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Peter*
 Thomas Lang Master for Glasgow
Three hundred and seventy Hogsheads Tobacco & ten thousand five hundred Staves
- April 5 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Blandford*
 Andrew Troop Mr for Glasgow
Five hundred and six Hogsheads Tobacco, two Barrels Indico, & fifteen thousand Staves
- April 6 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Snow *Unicorn*
 Isaac Hutchinson Mr for W[hi]t[e]haven
One hundred & ninety three Hogsheads Tobacco three Hogshds of Skins, five Barrels Flour & two thousand Staves
- April 20 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *America*
 Crowell Hatch Mr for London
Three hundred and seventy four Hogsheads Tobacco, sixteen Hogsheads of Skins and eight thousand Staves
- April 22 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Minerva*
 Jas Leitch Master for Glasgow
Three hundred and seven Hogsheads Tobacco, three Hogsheads Skins and ten thousand eight hundred Staves
- April 25 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Ocean*
 John Ewing Master bound for Glasgow
Five hundred eighty eight Hogsheads Tobo seventeen thousand eight hundred Staves & one Hogshead of rum for Stores
- May 3 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Speirs*
 John Lusk Master for Glasgow
Four hundred & twenty three Hogsheads Tobacco and nine thousand Staves
- May 15 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Watt*
 William Bewsher Master for Liverpoole
Six hundred and one Hogsheads Tobacco, six Hogsheads Skins eight Barrels of Pot Ash, twelve Tons and one hundred Weight of Pig-Iron, fourteen thousand one hundred & forty Staves, one hundred and twenty seven Inch Plank, sixty eight Oars, five Dozen of Handspikes, four Knees, eight thousand three hundred and sixty Lock-Stocks & five two Inch Plank
- May 17 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *True Patriot*
 Thos Aselby Master for Bristol
Five Hundred & twelve Hogsheads Tobacco one Hogshead of Skins, nine thousand Staves and forty Deal Boards

- May 30 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Brunswick*
Alexr McLarty. Mr for Glasgow
Three hundred and sixty three Hogsheads Tobacco, two Hogshds of Skins, one Cask of Indigo, a small Bag of Cotton & ten thousand Staves
- June 5 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Nelly*
Archd Mc Larty Mr for Glasgow
Four hundred & two Hogsheads Tobacco, eight Hogsheads of Skins, a parcel of Hams and twelve thousand of Staves
- June 9 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Brig *William & Mary*
Danl Moore Master for London
Two hundred and seventy two Hogsheads Tobacco, one Hogshd of Skins, & nine thousand five hundred Staves
- June 12 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Richmond*
James Paterson Master for Glasgow
Five hundred and forty two Hogsheads Tobacco, twenty thousand Staves and five hundred Hoops
[A second voyage for the *Richmond*; previous clearance, February 3, 1775]
- June 12 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Mars*,
Isaac Mitchinson Mr for Whitehaven
Four hundred and sixteen Hogsheads Tobacco, six Barrels of Flour, nine thousand two hundred Staves & thirty six Planks
- June 19 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Molly*
John Bell Master bound for London
Four hundred and ninety nine Hogsheads Tobacco, two Casks of Pearl Ashes and nine thousand Staves
- June 23 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Brig *Jeanie*,
John Kirkwood Master for Glasgow
Three hundred and ninety three Hogsheads Tobacco, one Hogshd of Skins & ten thousand Staves
- June 24 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Nestor*,
John Harrison Master for Glasgow
Six hundred and forty nine Hogsheads Tobacco, & twenty two thousand one hundred Staves
- June 26 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Hero*
Anthony Smith Mr bound for Whitehaven
Four hundred and thirty five Hogshd of Tobacco, fifteen thousand Staves & one thousand Foot of pine Plank

- July 1 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Peggy*
Robert Crawford Master for Glasgow
Four hundred and ninety four Hogsheads of Tobacco, five Hogshds of Hemp, thirteen thousand Staves & four hundred Hoops
- July 6 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Donald*
Thomas Ramsay Master for Glasgow
Five hundred and forty two Hogsheads Tobacco, sixteen thousand six hundred Staves, three Bundles of Skins, & six hundred Hoops
[A second voyage for the *Donald*; previous clearance February 24, 1775]
- July 8 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Neptune*
Henry Hudson Master for W[hi]t[e]haven
Five hundred and seventy one Hogsheads Tobacco and twelve thousand seven hundred and twenty seven Staves
- July 8 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Molly*
John Lawmont Master for Glasgow
Five hundred and eleven Hogsheads Tobacco, two Hogsheads of Skins, twelve thousand Staves, & one Hogshead of Rum for Ship's Use.
[A second voyage for the *Molly*; previous clearanee January 30, 1775]
- July 10 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Randolph*
John McNabb Master for London
Eight hundred and two Hogsheads Tobacco, two Hogsheads of Skins, one Barrl of Furrs, nineteen thousand one hundred and forty six anchor Stocks and two Beams
- July 17 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Brig *Friendship*,
Peter Parker James Master for Falmouth
Ninety seven Hogsheads Tobacco & three thousand two hundred and twenty eight Staves
- July 19 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Thomas*
John Robertson Mr for Glasgow
Four hundred and thirty two Hogsheads Tobacco twelve thousand Staves four hundred Hoops & eighteen old Tobacco Hogsheads
[A second voyage for the *Thomas*; previous clearance February 27, 1775]
- July 21 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Brigantine *Renfrew*
James Somervell Master for Glasgow
Four hundred and thirty Hogsheads of Tobacco & fourteen thousand Staves

- July 25 A Manifest of the Lading on Board the Ship *Neptune*
 Hugh Morris Master for Glasgow
 Four hundred and seventy four Hogsheads of Tobacco, thirteen thousand Staves and forty Dozen of Hoops
 [A second voyage for the *Neptune*; previous clearance February 16, 1775]
- July 25 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Snow *Betsey*
 William Benson Master bound for London
 One hundred & ninety seven Hogsheads Tobacco, three thousand pounds of Sassafras & four thousand Staves
- July 27 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Brilliant*
 Alexr McPherson Mr. for Glasgow
 Two hundred and fourteen Hogsheads Tobacco & sixteen thousand Staves
 [A second voyage for the *Brilliant*; previous clearance March 18, 1775, with Robert Bennet as master]
- July 27 A Manifest of Lading on board the Brigantine *Brayton*,
 John Cornack Master for Glasgow
 Three hundred and twenty six Hogsheads of Tobacco, and eight thousand Staves
- July 28 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Brigantine *Friends*,
 John Fisher Master for Glasgow
 Three hundred and twelve Hogsheads Tobacco, three Hogsheads of Skins ten thousand Staves, and sixty Barrels of Flour
- July 28 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Blandford*
 Andrew Troop Mr for Glasgow
 Two hundred twenty two Hogsheads of Tobacco, two Barrels & two Boxes of Indico & fifteen thousand Staves
 [A second voyage for the *Blandford*; previous clearance April 5, 1775]
- July 28 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Snow *Milham*,
 John Johnson Mastr for Glasgow
 Three hundred and twenty four Hogsheads Tobacco, two Casks of Indico and nine thousand Staves
- July 28 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Jenny*
 Robert Kerr Master bound for Glasgow
 Three hundred and sixty six Hogsheads of Tobacco, and nine thousand Staves
- July 31 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *John & Anne*
 Wm Power Mastr for London
 Three hundred and twelve Hogsheads Tobacco, eight Hogsheads of Skins, one Hogshhead of Beeswax, eight thousand Staves, thirteen Dozen of Handspikes, & thirty five Pair of Oars

- July 31 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *John*
George Taylor Master, bound for Liverpoole
Ninety Hogsheads of Tobacco, 12 dozen Handspikes, 800 Feet
of Oak plank, 10 Tons of Hemp, 108 Barrls of Flour, 303 Barrls
Pitch, 800 Feet of Oars, 2 Hogsheads of Skins, 50 Bushls of
Wheat, 50 Bushls of Corn and 18000 Staves
- August 5 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Bowman*,
Humphrey Taylor Mr for Glasgow
Four hundred and fifty two Hogsheads of Tobacco, one Pun-
cheon and two Hogsheads of Rum one of which for Stores &
eleven thousand Staves
[A second voyage for the *Bowman*; previous clearance,
December 30, 1774]
- August 5 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Eleonora*,
Arthur Ryburn Master for Glasgow
Six hundred and one Hogsheads of Tobacco & eighteen thou-
sand Staves
- August 5 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Warwick*
Andw McVey Master bound for Glasgw
Three hundred and fifty three Hogsheads of Tobacco, eight
thousand Staves and one Hogshd Rum for Ship's Stores
- August 11 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Brigantine *Venus*,
Isaac Sharpe Master, for W[hi]t[e]haven
Two hundred and seventy seven Hogsheads Tobacco and ten
thousand two hundred Staves
[A second voyage for *Venus*; previous clearance March 6,
1775]
- August 12 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Lord Chatham*,
Nicho Maingy Mr for Falmouth
One hundred and sixty three Hogsheads Tobacco, & twenty
thousand Staves
- August 12 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Peter*,
Thomas Lang Master, bound for Glasgow
Three hundred and seventy three Hogshds Tobacco & ten thou-
sand Staves
[A second voyage for the *Peter*; previous clearance April 4
1775]
- August 14 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Eliza[beth]*,
James Barron Master bound to London
Four hundred and sixty three Hogsheads Tobacco two Hogs-
heads of Skins two Tierces of Ginseng thirteen thousand
Staves and one Hogshead of Rum for Stores
[A second voyage for the *Elizabeth*; previous clearance Feb-
ruary 14, 1775]

- August 23 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Brig *Betsey*,
George Orr Master for Glasgow
Three hundred and ten Hogsheads Tobacco, one Hogshead of
Skins and eight thousand Staves
- [n.d.] A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Neptune*,
John Ewing Master for Glasgow
[No cargo listed; probably a clerical error in ship name entry;
see next entry]
- Sept 4 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Ocean*,
John Ewing Master, bound for Glasgow
Two hundred and eighty six Hogsheads Tobacco, eighteen thou-
sand Staves and one Hogshead of Rum for Stores
[A second voyage for the *Ocean*; previous clearance April
25, 1775]
- Sept 6 A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Betsey*,
James Ramsay Mastr for Glasgow
Three hundred and fifty eight Hogsheads Tobacco, nine thou-
sand Staves, & six hundred Hoops
- [n.d.] A Manifest of the Lading on board the Ship *Peggy*
Thomas Fisher Mr for Liverpool
[Incomplete and no totals]
- Sept 9 Ship *Molly*, a Manifest of her Cargo, John Cowan Master,
bound for London
Four hundred and sixty one Hogsheads Tobacco, two Casks of
Snakeroot and nine thousand Staves
- [n.d.] A Manifest of the Lading on board the *George & Charlotte*
Leml Cornick Mr for Glasgow
[Cargo not filled in; probably unable to meet the Continental
Association deadline for clearance]

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